

ATTACHMENT 1

1 BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
2 OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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4	Order Instituting Investigation)	CASE NO.
5	on the Commission's Own Motion)	11-06-009
6	Into the Planned Purchase and)	
7	Acquisition by AT&T Inc. of)	
8	T-Mobile USA, Inc., and its)	
9	Effect on California Ratepayers)	
10	and the California Economy)	

11

12

13 TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARING

14 THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2011

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17 Reported by:

18 LUCY CARRILLO-GRUBBS, RMR, CRR, RPR, CRP, CSR
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A P P E A R A N C E S

AOJ JESSICA HECHT

COMMISSIONER CATHERINE J.K. SANDOVAL

COMMISSIONER TIMOTHY ALAN SIMON

-oOo-

1 THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2011; 6:00 P.M.

2 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

3 -O-

4 JUSTICE HECHT: All right. We will be on the
5 record.

6 Good evening everyone. The Commission will
7 please come to order. This is the time and place set
8 by the California Public Utilities Commission for the
9 first public participation hearing and Commission
10 investigation 11-06-009. The investigation into the
11 planned purchase and acquisition of T-Mobile USA by
12 Cingular Wireless or AT&T Wireless. The investigation
13 focusses on the effect of this purchase on California
14 ratepayers and the California economy.

15 I am Administrative Law Judge Jessica Hecht
16 and I'm hoping that you can mostly hear me?

17 Yes, okay, good, then we'll go with that.

18 I have been assigned by the Commission to
19 preside over this proceeding. I am responsible for
20 ensuring that a fair hearing is conducted into the
21 proceeding and to develop a complete record on the
22 proceeding, and finally to prepare a proposed decision
23 for the Commission's consideration.

24 With me is Commissioner Catherine Sandoval,
25 who is the assigned lead Commissioner responsible for

1 this proceeding.

2 The Commission scheduled public participation
3 hearings here tonight to receive your comments on the
4 proposed purchase of T-Mobile by AT&T Wireless. This
5 is sometimes referred to as the proposed merger
6 between these two companies, so when you hear
7 merger you will know what it refers to.

8 Everyone wishing to express his or her views
9 will have a chance to do so.

10 I want to remind you that we have a court
11 reporter with us here in the front of the room, and
12 she will take down everything that you say. And it
13 will become a part of the record for this proceeding.
14 The Commission can then look at that record when
15 making a decision. Because of that, it is very
16 important that if you are not the recognized speaker
17 at a particular time, that you are as quiet as
18 possible, so that the court reporter can hear the
19 speaker.

20 And it is very important that when you are
21 the speaker, that you identify yourself and you speak
22 slowly and clearly, so that the court reporter can
23 hear you.

24 I will not interrupt you. We will all be
25 careful not to interrupt one another. When you get up

1 as the designated speaker, you can say your name and
2 then spell your last name before you begin to talk.

3 Some of you may have written or may in the
4 future write letters or e-mails to the Commission
5 about this case, those are also being made available
6 to the Commissioners and to me.

7 Anybody who would like to speak today should
8 sign up with Mary Evans and Judy Cooper at the back of
9 the room. They are the representative of the
10 Commissioner's public advisor's office, and they're
11 here to assist you if you want to participate further
12 in this proceeding and also to assist you tonight.

13 For ground rules, I'll remind you not to
14 interrupt other speakers, to be respectful of their
15 opinions and viewpoints. If necessary, based on the
16 number of people who sign up to speak, we may limit
17 speakers to three minutes each or less. Also, as in
18 past public participation hearings, when we have large
19 groups of people affiliated with a single
20 organization, and I know there's at least one
21 organization that is doing that today, that we will
22 have one primary speaker and then others in the group
23 should limit themselves to about a minute each.

24 Everybody should try to be brief, try not to
25 repeat what others have said before them, but this is

1 your opportunity to speak and that's what we're here
2 to do is to listen to you.

3 With that, I will have Commissioner Sandoval
4 say a few words and then I'll introduce a couple of
5 other people and we'll get started.

6 COMMISSIONER SANDOVAL: Thank you very much,
7 Administrative Law Judge Hecht.

8 And welcome, everyone, to the California
9 Public Utilities Commission, and to the first of these
10 public participation hearings and through our series
11 of workshops analyzing the proposed merger between
12 AT&T and T-Mobile.

13 So first of all, I really wanted to thank
14 everyone for coming. This is a very impressive
15 showing, and we really appreciate your interest and
16 your engagement in this proceeding. So we look
17 forward to hearing today about your facts, facts that
18 are important to you, that are relevant to this
19 merger, and the things that we should consider as a
20 Commission in evaluating this merger.

21 So as you may know, we're doing this because
22 the California legislature gave to this commission the
23 duty to consider under California law whether or not
24 this proposed merger will serve the public interest.
25 And the law sets forth several factors to consider, so

1 among those factors would be, the effect of the merger
2 on service, the effect of the merger on competition,
3 the effect of the merger on employees, the effect of
4 the merger on affected communities, the effect of the
5 merger on California's long-term and short-term
6 economy.

7 So if you can also help us to think about how
8 does -- what is your view of those factors, and what
9 we should consider in evaluating those factors, that
10 would be very helpful.

11 I was talking to some people earlier, saying,
12 for example, you know, what is important to you with
13 regard to the mobile platform? That would be -- that
14 would be important to know in terms of looking at what
15 is going to be important, relevant to the analysis of
16 this merger.

17 So we thank you and I really look forward to
18 your comments.

19 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much,
20 Commissioner Sandoval.

21 Present with us tonight we have
22 representatives of AT&T and I believe also T-Mobile,
23 and they have people available if you have questions
24 for them directly. They should make themselves
25 available to answer those questions.

1 We also have a member of the Commission's
2 consumer affairs branch staff, who will be able to
3 answer questions that you have. And we have another
4 room available for you to meet with those people if
5 you would like to do so.

6 And before I continue with the additional
7 introductions, I will recognize that we have one of
8 our other Commissioners, Commissioner Simon with us.

9 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Evening.

10 JUSTICE HECHT: Do you have a brief statement
11 that you'd like to make?

12 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Certainly.

13 Well, I want to welcome everybody this
14 evening for this very important public participation
15 hearing that's being held regarding the merger
16 application or the order of investigation on the AT&T
17 and T-Mobile merger. And what I'd like to say is that
18 the public participation here is -- is, to me, the
19 pinnacle of our due process system, because it gives
20 the public the opportunity to weigh in on the
21 decisions that we will make as Commissioners. And I
22 want to thank Commissioner Sandoval for her
23 extraordinary leadership not only in this proceeding,
24 but in the industry, particularly when you consider
25 that she's still a newbie on this commission, but I

1 tell you, she's had an impact like a seasoned hall of
2 fame veteran, so I want to thank her. But I want to
3 emphasize that this is your opportunity to weigh in.

4 Now, as you noticed, that we do have a
5 stenographer or a court reporter here, so your
6 comments are going into the record, but because you're
7 not under oath and you're not cross-examined as they
8 go into the record, it isn't given the same weight as
9 evidence or evidentiary findings within the record,
10 but they're still very important on how we as
11 commissioners assess our decisions going forward.

12 And when we look at the critical importance
13 that broadband and, particularly, mobile broadband,
14 the wireless world is going to play in the
15 competitiveness of our state economically, in the
16 quality of life for our residents and our ratepayers,
17 this proceeding is of extraordinary importance.

18 I rate it as probably one of the most
19 important proceedings in my time, which is going on
20 five years now in this commission.

21 So again, I want to thank Commissioner
22 Sandoval, and I want to thank all of you for taking
23 time out of your lives, taking time away from the
24 Giants and San Diego Padres games this evening to be
25 here and to allow us to hear you. So I look forward

1 to all of your comments.

2 Thank you.

3 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much,
4 Commissioner Simon.

5 And I want to echo the Commissioner's words,
6 welcoming you here and thanking you all for taking the
7 time to come and participate in this process with us,
8 and give us your thoughts.

9 We have a few representatives of the
10 Commission staff here today with us. As I said, I
11 think the ones that would be of most interest are the
12 public advisor's office, and if you do have questions
13 about participation, please speak with them, and they
14 will help you figure out how to participate. They are
15 Judy Cooper and Mary Evans.

16 We will now hear from the one elected
17 official that we have present. And we usually take
18 the elected officials first, and that is Gilbert Wong
19 of -- mayor of Cupertino.

20 MR. WONG: Good evening. My name is Gilbert
21 Wong, W-o-n-g, the mayor of Cupertino. And I want to
22 say thank you for the PUC to come and listen to all of
23 us with our diverse opinions.

24 As you know, Cupertino is located in Silicon
25 Valley, in the heart of -- we're in the heart of

1 Cupertino, and we're also very happy to have Apple
2 Computer as their headquarters there. And as you
3 know, they build from iPhones to iPads, so technology
4 is something that's very important to Silicon Valley
5 and our community.

6 I'm here to support the merger of AT&T and
7 T-Mobile. As mayor and council member of a small town
8 of 68,000 people, we approve of a lot of cell phone
9 towers in our city, and we have to explain to our
10 residents why it is important to have cell phone
11 towers. In the neighborhood of Monte Vista, which is
12 mainly residential, they have a hard time getting
13 connections for their iPads, and -- and we had to
14 explain to them why we have to put cell phone towers
15 in the neighborhood.

16 If you can have less companies and allow this
17 merger, then we will have less cell phone towers put
18 in our community. Also, AT&T has the resources to do
19 the public outreach to the community and explain the
20 importance of having these cell phone towers in our
21 neighborhood. So I urge the PUC to strongly consider
22 this application and I'm in support.

23 Thank you very much.

24 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much. Thank
25 you very much.

1 I'm going to in a moment turn to the first of
2 our speakers, and I think the first group that we have
3 is a large group that has signed up from -- I'm not
4 sure if it is from Greenlining or if it is a different
5 group, but that can be clarified when we get there.

6 In the meantime, I want to tell everybody
7 that if you have questions for one of the AT&T
8 representatives or somebody else, you can ask those
9 questions during your time speaking.

10 Rather than turning to get those questions
11 answered in a question and answer format, we'll pause
12 after every few speakers and ask the company
13 representative to respond if somebody is available to
14 do that.

15 We also then will resume taking your
16 statements and we'll repeat that process just so that
17 we don't interrupt the flow of the speech for a while.
18 So I will be keeping notes of the questions and we
19 will get to them. And we will do so as efficiently as
20 possible.

21 I want to ensure that everybody who has a
22 statement has an opportunity to present it. And we
23 have at least 60 speakers that we want to do today, so
24 I am going to impose a limit of about two minutes per
25 speaker.

1 If that is a concern, you can state that and
2 we will do what we can.

3 The court reporter, once again, is preparing
4 a transcript, that's a difficult task, so speak slowly
5 and clearly so she can make an accurate record.

6 Keep your statements reasonably brief and to
7 the point, so that everybody who wants to speak may do
8 so. Avoid repeating what others have already
9 presented, if possible.

10 In general, I'll hear from speakers in the
11 order that they've signed up, first taking the group
12 that I was informed of in advance, and then taking
13 each speaker as they come up.

14 Everybody who would like to speak should sign
15 up with the public advisor's representative at the
16 back of the room. If you do not do that, you will not
17 get an opportunity to speak, because that is how I get
18 speakers' names.

19 Also in this proceeding, we're asking that
20 you can -- when you identify yourself, you state your
21 relationship, if any, to the parties of this proposed
22 transaction and -- in between AT&T and T-Mobile, and
23 whether the organization you represent has received
24 funding in the past 12 months or has been promised
25 funding for AT&T and/or T-Mobile, Sprint or any other

1 wireless or wire line telephone company or their
2 foundation.

3 This request is specific to this particular
4 investigation and was in the investigation, as it was
5 initiated by the Commission.

6 So, I believe the first speaker that I have
7 is Patricia Lindo, unless there was somebody from --
8 is -- okay, the first name I have --

9 MR. GNAIZDA: Excuse me, maybe, Your Honor, I
10 can explain.

11 Bob Gnaizda, representing the Black Economic
12 Council, the National Asian American Coalition and the
13 Latino Business Chamber.

14 We've put together, with the help of Judy, a
15 group of people here who will abide by the rules, and
16 we've all asked the esteemed former 40-year pastor
17 from the Allen Temple Baptist Church to lead off. And
18 then there's a group of people who will stand -- stand
19 up and will move very swiftly, so we can accommodate
20 to the agreement that was reached, if that's okay.

21 JUSTICE HECHT: How many people do you have
22 here? Because I have a long list and I'd like to know
23 how many people we're expecting.

24 MR. GNAIZDA: I think it will be about 30.

25 JUSTICE HECHT: Okay.

1 MR. GNAIZDA: We'll get them in that 45
2 minutes that was allocated.

3 JUSTICE HECHT: Right, okay, then we can
4 start with -- is it Dr. Smith?

5 MR. GNAIZDA: Yes.

6 JUSTICE HECHT: And then we will have
7 Dr. Smith as the primary speaker, and the remaining
8 speakers from this group should limit themselves to
9 one minute so we can get through this.

10 DR. SMITH: Thank you.

11 I'm Jay Alfred Smith Senior, pastor emeritus
12 of the Allen Temple Baptist Church of Oakland,
13 California.

14 It is an indescribable joy for me to appear
15 before the powerful California Public Utilities
16 Commission and to address pregnant possibilities for
17 progress if an ethical and justice-oriented merger can
18 take place between California AT&T and T-Mobile.

19 I appreciate more than words can tell the
20 members of the California Public Utilities Commission,
21 especially those that I've worked with, Mr. Simon and
22 Ms. Sandoval and Mr. Florio.

23 Please allow me to say a brief word to one
24 closer than breathing and nearer than hands and feet
25 to whom many privileged people feel no need to speak

1 to. God of California's last leaves and lords, may
2 this hearing bring hope, help and health to them, the
3 underserved. Make clear our thinking, make ethical
4 our decisions that will do the most good and the least
5 harm. Amen.

6 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Amen.

7 DR. SMITH: AT&T California, under the
8 leadership of its forward-moving president Ken
9 McNeely, without fanfare is an admirable leader in
10 philanthropy contracts to minority-owned business and
11 in sharing employment data. Among corporations doing
12 substantial business in California, it appears that
13 only two provide more cash and philanthropy than AT&T,
14 they're Wells Fargo, which has the best record, and
15 Bank of America.

16 The main opponent of the merger is Sprint.
17 It is estimated that Sprint's philanthropy is far less
18 than one-tenth of AT&T's. That is, AT&T's record is
19 at least ten times better.

20 An equally important fact is that 95 percent
21 of AT&T's philanthropy goes to minorities and
22 underserved communities. In contrast, many
23 competitors, such as Google and Apple, award most of
24 their philanthropy to elite universities or to the
25 opera, symphony, ballet causes. It doesn't help the

1 communities that I serve.

2 The contracts to minority-owned business,
3 well, AT&T has the best record in California of any
4 corporation in America. This includes the record that
5 is 15 times higher than that of Sprint for Latinos and
6 five times better than Sprint's record for blacks. 15
7 percent of the contracts were awarded to Latinos and
8 five percent to blacks by AT&T.

9 JUSTICE HECHT: One more minute, sir.

10 DR. SMITH: Well, may I say a word about the
11 employment data. AT&T contends that 55 percent of its
12 employees are minorities in California. This is
13 likely to be far higher than that of Sprint, Apple or
14 Google. Most importantly, AT&T is transparent about
15 their employment data, and has a black California
16 president. Google, Apple and Sprint are unwilling to
17 provide us with their precise numbers.

18 As I close, if AT&T and T-Mobile are prepared
19 to provide major consumer protections, including
20 preventing overcharges, if AT&T and T-Mobile are
21 prepared to provide low cost cell phones that can be
22 used by the entire family, if AT&T and T-Mobile are
23 prepared to develop programs to provide technical
24 assistance for small Asian American, Latino American
25 and African-American business so that they can secure

1 contracts, and if they're willing to create jobs for
2 the large number of unemployed people and black,
3 Latino and immigrant Asian communities --

4 JUSTICE HECHT: Your time is up, sir.

5 DR. SMITH: We will heartedly support the
6 merger.

7 Thank you.

8 JUSTICE HECHT: Now the other speakers in
9 Mr. Smith's group may come up. Each will be given one
10 minute, since Mr. Smith had a little bit of additional
11 time. Later speakers will each get two minutes if
12 they are individuals representing themselves or other
13 groups, unless there's another large group, then we
14 can make an accommodation.

15 And please state your name, and spell your
16 name and let us know if you are -- have an affiliation
17 with or have received money from one of the merger
18 applicants -- partners, excuse me.

19 MR. BUFORD: My name is Reverend Daniel
20 Buford. I'm also here from the Allen Temple Baptist
21 Church in Oakland, California. My last name is
22 spelled B-u-f-o-r-d.

23 And my job there is as the minister of
24 prophetic justice, which has to do with the social
25 justice issues, and those will be the issues that I

1 will speak to with respect to the impact of this -- of
2 this merger on the community.

3 I first want to say that echoing Dr. Smith's
4 comments about AT&T's response to the corporate
5 responsibility of having a diverse workforce and a
6 diverse management force, that we commend you on that.
7 But we need for you to go another step further,
8 another couple of steps further. We acknowledge that
9 the corporations now are taking the lowest common
10 denominator approach to corporate responsibility. We
11 feel that AT&T being the big guy on the -- on the
12 block needs to show a little bit more that way.

13 With that in mind, the merger should help
14 support public education. The first name in AT&T is
15 American. We feel that you should support American
16 education to support people who can, in turn, be
17 qualified to work for your agency.

18 I know you're getting ready to cut me off so
19 as I hasten to a close, let me say also, with respect
20 to the digital divide, that AT&T with this merger,
21 should make every effort to bridge that digital divide
22 by making sure that you enter into accountable and
23 measurable, successful partnerships with the
24 African-American community around the broadband issue,
25 as well as with the Latino and Asian communities.

1 And my -- my last and final point is -- is
2 that we're -- we acknowledge the presence of Mr. Simon
3 and Ms. Sandoval, as -- as being people who are
4 ethical on this commission, and we hope that -- that
5 this merger will produce accountable and measurable
6 results that will help out all our communities.

7 Thank you.

8 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you.

9 The next speaker from this group, please
10 identify yourself and then speak for one minute.

11 MS. LINDO: Hi, I'm Patricia Lindo,
12 L-i-n-d-o, and I'm the national president for the
13 National Hispanic Organization of Real Estate
14 Associates.

15 And as a realtor, my industry is very
16 dependent on accessibility to broadband, to
17 technology. We are particularly delighted with
18 wireless.

19 However, as a representative of the Latino
20 community, my organization has been very proactive in
21 voicing our concerns about the lack of jobs. We have
22 worked closely with the Latino Business Chamber of
23 greater L.A. and we've demonstrated against Google's
24 and Apple's lack of hiring in the Latino community,
25 and I would like you to consider that as you go forth

1 with the potential merger.

2 I'd also like to ask for transparency and a
3 long-term commitment to the hiring practices, the
4 contracts that are available to minorities, and
5 particularly, the wireless accessibility to the Latino
6 families and their children, who are using it so much
7 for their education.

8 So with that, I just want to thank you for
9 doing your due diligence and I encourage you to keep
10 all -- everyone's opinion because it's very important
11 and we appreciate your time.

12 Thank you.

13 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

14 Next speaker, please.

15 MS. AGUINALDO: My name is Rhea Aguinaldo,
16 that's A-g-u-i-n-a-l-d-o. I'm from the National Asian
17 American Coalition and we are accepting gifts from
18 AT&T.

19 As the NACM advocate for consumer protection,
20 diversity and small business assistance, this merger
21 is one of the most -- one of the most large mergers in
22 the last few years, and its outcomes will not only
23 affect the telecommunications marketplace, but also
24 the way in which giant mergers are in the future. We
25 want to make sure that corporations usually don't get

1 too big and not too powerful, but more importantly, to
2 make sure that they operate in the best interest of
3 the public.

4 When it comes to this merger, however, there
5 are lots of other competitors of AT&T. For example,
6 Google and Apple can easily be considered competitors.

7 So, therefore, the real issue is how socially
8 responsible AT&T has been in the past, and how
9 socially responsible they will be in the future.

10 Specifically, will AT&T continue to create
11 jobs by hiring and doing business with minorities.
12 Will AT&T continue providing technical assistance and
13 capacity building to small minority-owned businesses
14 like the ones we represent. And also, will AT&T
15 continue to give back to the community more so than
16 most other giant corporations.

17 So these are all very important questions
18 that the Commission should consider when examining
19 this merger and whether it's in the best interest of
20 the public.

21 Thank you.

22 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

23 And next speaker, please.

24 MS. LEWIS: Hi, my name is Yolanda Lewis,
25 L-e-w-i-s. I'm with the Black Economic Council.

1 I'm here today to speak to the fact that
2 history is a good indicator of our future, and the
3 history that AT&T has demonstrated with the support of
4 small businesses and the minority community jobs has
5 been something that can be improved but in comparison
6 to the competitors, to Google, to Apple, and to those
7 who don't even give our -- the records of what they
8 have, we need to keep that in consideration.

9 We hope to see them increase what they have
10 been doing. We are happy with the fact that they're
11 actually working with us, but we want to see more.
12 And we want to see the merger produce an example for
13 other Silicon Valley companies to follow, that if they
14 want to have action or they want to have the support
15 of the Commission and the community, that they need to
16 be a responsible corporation. And that's what we're
17 looking for, we hope AT&T can be an example for that.

18 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

19 And I'm going to remind the next speakers
20 just to speak slowly and clearly.

21 And please go ahead.

22 MS. FULLER: Thank you. My name is Barbara
23 Fuller, last name is spelled F-u-l-l-e-r. And I'm
24 representing the Allen Temple group and also St.
25 Augustine's Episcopal Church in Oakland.

1 My concern is about the jobs issue, which
2 some of the previous speakers have talked about. But
3 we know that in a merger, what tends to happen is that
4 people lose their jobs. So I would be concerned as to
5 how AT&T would go about the business of hiring people,
6 people from the community and others, when they are
7 laying off and firing the people, some people from
8 AT&T and T-Mobile in the process of the merger.

9 So I -- I would want the Commission to be
10 very specific about getting that information from AT&T
11 before any merger is approved.

12 Thank you.

13 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

14 Next speaker, please.

15 MS. COLON: Hi -- excuse me. Hi, my name is
16 Leah Colon, C-o-l-o-n. And I'm part of the four
17 million Filipino American families in America.

18 I support what the National Asian American
19 Coalition is trying to do, but we ask and we need this
20 commission to be an advocate for the Filipino
21 American, Asian American, American Indian and black
22 communities. Please advise AT&T that if they want the
23 merger, they should guarantee that minorities and the
24 poor will strongly benefit by a merger.

25 Thank you.

1 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

2 Next speaker, please.

3 MR. CARCAMO: My name is Jorge Carcamo,
4 that's C-a-r-c-a-m-o. I'm with the National Hispanic
5 Organization of Real Estate Associates.

6 And I'm here to say that the -- the
7 Commission should approve this merger only if we get a
8 commitment from AT&T. I represent the Latino
9 population here. We're 38 percent of California and
10 the -- the California population should reflect not
11 only the employees at AT&T at the lowest levels, but
12 also at the highest of management. So I would
13 encourage the Commission to get some sort of
14 commitment from AT&T whether they're going to
15 incorporate the Latinos into the long-term planning,
16 not only for the employment but also for contracting
17 opportunities, and as well as for the technology
18 training that we need as a community to be really
19 emerged into this technology, that's very important to
20 us.

21 Thank you very much.

22 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you.

23 Next speaker, please.

24 MS. PLEASANT: My name is Alkaren Pleasant,
25 P-l-e-a-s-a-n-t. I live in San Jose.

1 We need jobs in the community, and
2 opportunities for small businesses to be successful
3 and create more jobs. AT&T has a strong record in
4 comparison to other Silicon Valley --

5 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Excuse me, I think you
6 need to put the microphone closer so that we can hear
7 you.

8 MS. PLEASANT: Can you hear me now?

9 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Is your mic on? Is
10 the -- is the -- is the red light on on your mic? The
11 green light, green light.

12 MS. PLEASANT: It's a green light.

13 JUSTICE HECHT: You have to be pretty close
14 to it.

15 MS. PLEASANT: Okay, thank you. I'll try it
16 again.

17 My name is Alkaren Pleasant, that's
18 P-l-e-a-s-a-n-t. I live in San Jose.

19 We need jobs in the community, and our -- and
20 opportunity for small business to be successful and
21 create more jobs. AT&T has a strong record in
22 comparison to other Silicon Valley companies in
23 supporting our community and can be improved, but --
24 but it is appreciated.

25 My daughter at a young age, she was sixth

1 grade and she took a class that was supported by AT&T,
2 and she did very well, very successful. And it gave
3 her an -- an insight of a light that turned on that
4 said, hey, I can be somebody and I can help others.

5 So they taught her how to have a vision to --
6 to basically create a job, and also from the start to
7 beginning, how she can also market her -- her
8 business.

9 Today now she's at Hampton University in
10 Virginia, doing very well, and she wants to give back
11 to the community.

12 So I just believe that -- that we should
13 support our -- and be responsible for a company who's
14 supporting our communities.

15 Thanks.

16 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

17 Next speaker, please.

18 MR. BUNAG: I am Ramon Bunag and I'm -- I
19 strongly endorse or support the NAAC, otherwise known
20 as --

21 JUSTICE HECHT: One moment, could you please
22 spell your name.

23 MR. BUNAG: Ramon, R-a-m-o-n, B-u-n-a-g,
24 Bunag, and I'm a part member or supporter of the
25 National Asian American Coalition.

1 I agree with those who don't want monopolies
2 or companies grow too big, but I also agree that it is
3 important to help companies that create jobs and to
4 help companies that are very good corporate citizens.

5 I would like to see this commission compare
6 the record of serving the community and the minority
7 community between AT&T and other giant corporations.

8 Thank you.

9 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

10 Next speaker, please.

11 MR. PLEASANT: My name is Terrance Pleasant,
12 P-l-e-a-s-a-n-t.

13 My sister who is now in college participated
14 in a technology workshop sponsored by AT&T. She's
15 working hard to find scholarships to finish college.
16 I know AT&T has sponsored my family and community. I
17 hope AT&T will do more and I can participate in
18 programs to help me and my family's goals. We should
19 only support companies that support our communities.

20 Thank you.

21 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

22 MS. VIEK: Good evening, my name is Claudia
23 Viek, V as in Victor, i-e-k, and I'm the CEO of CAMEO,
24 that stands for the California Association for Micro
25 Enterprise Opportunity. We're the statewide network

1 of 85 nonprofit micro enterprise development groups
2 that served 21,000 businesses this last year
3 throughout California.

4 I'm here, really, to testify to the
5 leadership that AT&T has shown in developing jobs
6 through micro enterprises and start-up businesses.
7 And particularly in this last year, in sponsoring
8 micro enterprise's assistance for disabled vets.
9 They're the only public utility that has any kind of
10 initiative in support of this size and scope, in
11 support of micro enterprise development and job
12 creation. And they're the only ones that have
13 sponsored the Disabled Vets Assistance Program, that
14 is going to help both start-up businesses amongst the
15 disabled vets community as well as developing growth
16 opportunities through procurement.

17 The NAAC is one of our members and we're --
18 and the Latino Business Chamber as well, and we're
19 proud to be working with them on the Disabled Vets
20 Program and look forward to its expansion if this
21 merger is approved.

22 Thanks.

23 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

24 Next speaker, please.

25 MS. ENGLISH: Good evening, I'm Shufina

1 English, also from CAMEO, last name is E-n-g-l-i-s-h,
2 and I am the director of programs and operations for
3 CAMEO and I manage the Disabled Veterans Program,
4 which my boss just spoke about.

5 And I'm here to encourage AT&T to continue to
6 support this program. I'm working with five different
7 organizations across the state serving both inner city
8 and rural disabled veterans. We are very proud of
9 this program. We're receiving a lot of attention
10 nationally and even from other potential funders. We
11 see it as a very significant, meaningful program to
12 serve the disabled veterans who are returning to
13 California and existing. California has the -- the
14 largest population of veterans in the country, and
15 it's an opportunity to provide meaningful support to
16 disabled, disadvantaged population.

17 And so I'm here to encourage you to continue
18 your support.

19 Thank you.

20 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

21 Next speaker, please.

22 MR. PECHO: Good evening, Commissioner Simon,
23 Commissioner Sandoval. Thank you for taking this time
24 now to listen to the community.

25 My name is Jose Pecho, that's spelled

1 P-e-c-h-o, and I'm the chairman for Northern
2 California of the National Federation of Filipino
3 American Associations. We're simply NAPA. NAPA is a
4 nonpartisan, nonprofit national organization, formed
5 to promote the welfare and well-being of all Filipinos
6 and Filipino Americans throughout the United States by
7 fostering unity and empowerment.

8 NAPA joins with other respected organizations
9 here, including NAAC, the Black Economic Council, in
10 supporting the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile.

11 Mobile broadband is profoundly important in
12 connecting minorities to the Internet and helping to
13 close the all-important digital divide. Minorities
14 are the most avid users of mobile broadband.
15 African-Americans, Asians and Hispanics don't only use
16 wireless connections to surf the Web, we use it to
17 send e-mail, watch videos, access social networking
18 sites, access education and employment opportunities,
19 and do so at far higher rates than nonminorities.

20 You also have other reasons to be optimistic
21 and enthusiastic about this transaction. AT&T has a
22 long record of excellence when it comes to diversity
23 in working towards inclusion.

24 AT&T currently ranges fourth on
25 DiversityInc's annual list of top Fortune 500

1 companies for diversity. AT&T is also committed to
2 working with minority-owned businesses, as mentioned
3 previously. And in 2000 -- in the year 2000 alone the
4 company has spent over \$9 billion on goods and
5 services from minority-owned business -- businesses
6 involved in its supply chain.

7 Done correctly, this merger will be not just
8 good for my community, the Filipino American
9 community, but all minorities and everybody else in
10 the United States.

11 Thank you very much.

12 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

13 Next speaker, please.

14 MS. PEREZ: Good evening, everyone. My name
15 is Amelia Perez with the National Asian American
16 Coalition.

17 And personally, my BlackBerry servicer is
18 with AT&T for over ten years, and I'm pretty satisfied
19 with -- with their service except for some dropped
20 calls in Daly City.

21 Anyway, thousands of small nonprofits are
22 closing from lack of government funds and corporate
23 support. Corporations that have very good records in
24 helping nonprofits should be rewarded. The NAAC has
25 told us that this commission is the best commission in

1 the country, in helping minorities secure a fair
2 chance. We would like this commission to help
3 minorities by helping the companies that have the best
4 records of helping minorities and not help companies
5 with bad records, in hiring and doing business with
6 minorities.

7 We need this commission to protect us by
8 ensuring that this merger lowers the cost to
9 consumers.

10 Thank you.

11 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

12 The next speaker, please.

13 MS. BAUTISTA: I'm GiGi Bautista,
14 B-a-u-t-i-s-t-a, and I'm from Southern California.

15 Millions of Californians are users of
16 wireless phones that have deep ties with India,
17 Mexico, Philippines and all other hundred nations.
18 On -- on examining this giant merger, we should ask
19 all telecommunications and Silicon Valley companies
20 what they are doing to connect these immigrants to
21 their friends and relatives in other nations. Most of
22 all, but most of all -- the most important thing is we
23 should ask them what they're doing to help ensure that
24 these immigrants who come to the United States have
25 the -- have the knowledge, the skills, educated and

1 employable.

2 I offer one example, which I'm quite an
3 expert, is the public libraries. In the Philippines,
4 there are -- or very limited effective public library
5 system even in Manila. And in my home province of
6 Antique, in western -- there's just one public
7 library -- effective public library that has been
8 funded by a private individual.

9 The same situation exists throughout the
10 entire population of eight million, and 33 percent of
11 this has no access to public libraries. This is a
12 great population, almost half of the nation which are
13 members of the United Nations.

14 I support the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile
15 because I know AT&T helped people in the Philippines.

16 Thank you.

17 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you.

18 Next speaker, please.

19 MR. NGUYEN: Good evening, my name is Sieng
20 Nguyen, spelled S-i-e-n-g, N-g-u-y-e-n, and I'm a --
21 I'm a small business owner as well as I'm Vietnamese.

22 And Vietnamese people rarely speaks out to
23 this kind of events, so even though we have so many
24 Vietnamese out there, I totally believe that AT&T has
25 helped so many small business owner as well as the

1 minority business owner, and the nonprofit
2 organization and charities. I believe that they will
3 continue to do more after the merger of AT&T and --
4 and T-Mobile, so can help our community a little bit
5 more.

6 Thank you.

7 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

8 Next speaker from this group, please. And it
9 looks like we'll be finished with this group fairly
10 soon and then I will pick up with the rest of our
11 list.

12 Go ahead.

13 DR. CASTRO: Thank you. Dr. Judy Castro,
14 C-a-s-t-r-o. I am with the National Asian American
15 Coalition.

16 I want to also reiterate the comments that
17 have been made by my colleagues, that we ask AT&T not
18 to lose the focus of this commitment to continue to
19 support our minority communities through education,
20 through job opportunities, and also to small
21 businesses. They have done an excellent job with all
22 communities, but we ask that you ask them not to lose
23 the focus because without the focus, there's not going
24 to be any success in this merger, so we do applaud but
25 we ask them to continue to support.

1 Thank you.

2 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you.

3 Next speaker, please.

4 MS. FRANCISCO: Hi, my name is Maru

5 Francisco, and my only concern is with a big --

6 JUSTICE HECHT: Could you spell your name,

7 ma'am.

8 MS. FRANCISCO: I'm sorry, M-a-r-u,

9 Francisco, F-r-a-n-c-i-s-c-o.

10 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you.

11 MS. FRANCISCO: So anyway, my concern is just

12 the customer service as a result of this merger. What

13 I need to know, are they going to give the jobs here

14 instead of outsourcing them to other countries.

15 That's all.

16 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

17 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Very good point.

18 JUSTICE HECHT: Next speaker, please.

19 MR. COURTNEY: My name is Vince Courtney.

20 I'm here, I represent the Alliance for Jobs and

21 Sustainable Growth.

22 And I know you've received a letter from the

23 San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, which is a member

24 of our organization, but I want you to know, the

25 organization of -- supports that letter entirely, but

1 it's also made up of several unions and I wanted to
2 bring that to your attention.

3 We have four construction unions, the
4 carpenters, the laborers, the electricians and the
5 plumbers, also the IOW Local 6 is a member of our
6 group, so is Teamsters Local 856 and the A. Philip
7 Randolph Institute. And together we're enthusiastic
8 about this, not just because AT&T is an excellent
9 employer, comparatively speaking, given everything
10 that's going on today, but we need the jobs, we really
11 need the jobs.

12 So thank you very much.

13 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

14 Next speaker from this group, please.

15 MR. SLED: I don't know if I'm part of this
16 group. I'm just a citizen, I'm actually nobody. I
17 did not come here on anyone's behest. My name is
18 Dmitri Sled, D-m-i-t-r-i, S-l-e-d.

19 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry?

20 Mr. SLED: D-m-i-t-r-i, S-l-e-d is my last
21 name.

22 Anyway, I did not come here on anybody's
23 behest. I represent nobody. I was not paid to be
24 here. None of my family members are supported by
25 AT&T's programs and even if they were, that would make

1 no difference in my stand.

2 I am against this merger. The fact is, after
3 this, there will be three companies controlling 90
4 percent of all the -- all wireless, basically, in this
5 country. And, I mean, Sprint is lagging far behind
6 and they're probably going to be bought out too
7 shortly, so you're going to have two large companies,
8 two large telecom companies controlling, you know,
9 this whole industry basically. Now, that may not be a
10 monopoly but that's a duopoly, and that's kind of not
11 great either. It's going to be bad for consumers
12 because the price is going to go up.

13 I mean, I know people say that like AT&T has
14 a great record of job growth and a great record of
15 supporting minority groups and, you know, communities
16 and stuff, but first, there is absolutely no guarantee
17 that they will actually make good on their word to
18 keep jobs. There's no guarantee that they will do any
19 of this. They're a corporation. They're beholden to
20 no one and they can lie to you and say all the things
21 they want.

22 And unfortunately, the record shows that
23 whenever there is mergers like this, thousands of jobs
24 get lost in the process. So there may be jobs
25 created, maybe, I don't know. I'm -- I am not an

1 expert at this, but just from what I've known
2 historically, jobs will be lost. Prices will go up.
3 And, you know, AT&T will have more political power.
4 There's a reason they broke up Bell in the '80s, and
5 like now it's back to this. So I'm -- you know, I'm
6 just against this, and, yeah, I speak for myself and
7 nobody else.

8 Thank you.

9 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you.

10 All right, we're going to proceed now with
11 our main speakers. We have something like 45
12 speakers, and I'm going to limit each speaker to about
13 two minutes.

14 We are going to start with Melvin Mason and
15 after Mr. Mason, we will be taking, I believe, Steve
16 Nakaso. So if the first one can come up and the
17 second one can get ready to come up, that would be
18 ideal.

19 MR. MASON: Okay, good evening, Commissioner
20 Sandoval, Commission Simon in his absence, Judge, Your
21 Honor. My name is Mel Mason, last name spelled
22 M-a-s-o-n, and I'm president of the Monterey County
23 branch of the NAACP, National Association for the
24 Advancement of Colored People.

25 I spoke on behalf of our branch at the

1 previous PUC meeting, stating that our branch supports
2 this merger of AT&T and T-Mobile.

3 And I can certainly appreciate the PUC's
4 attempt to do due diligence here by certainly getting
5 more information and then making a -- an informed
6 decision on this merger, which we of course support.

7 For myself as an individual and for the
8 NAACP, we don't have much of a history of supporting
9 mergers of major corporations. In fact, we've often
10 seen in these types of mergers as being in the
11 financial interest of the rich and to the detriment of
12 the interest of minority rule and poor communities.

13 That changed for us somewhat with the merger
14 of SBC and the old AT&T. I also spoke at those PU --
15 PUC meetings, hearings as well, supporting that
16 merger, and just as SBC, AT&T -- the merger of the new
17 AT&T and T-Mobile will continue and expand and enhance
18 technological access for minority rule in poor
19 communities.

20 Information is empowering, if not power
21 itself, and for these communities which have
22 historically been either left out of these types of
23 developments are, at the very most on the margins,
24 being rendered as being peripheral spectators to such
25 development.

1 The NAACP has been happy with the results of
2 the previous merger and is even more strongly
3 supportive of this proposed merger because of the
4 broad benefits it will bring to those communities
5 about which we are parentally concerned and whose
6 interest we're always fighting.

7 So we, again, support the merger of AT&T with
8 T-Mobile. We think that it will bridge the digital
9 divide and -- and provide more access and also
10 economic development for those communities that we're
11 so concerned about.

12 Thank you.

13 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much,
14 Mr. Mason.

15 And now we will have Mr. Nakajo, and please
16 correct me when I mispronounce people's names.

17 MR. NAKAJO: Thank you very much, Judge.

18 My name is Steve Nakajo, N-a-k-a-j-o. Good
19 evening Commissioner Sandoval. Thank you very much
20 for this opportunity, in terms of participating within
21 this process.

22 I stand in front of you as executive director
23 of Kimochi Senior Center located in the heart of
24 Japantown. We just finished celebrating our 40th
25 anniversary. As a point of information, I started

1 there when I was 24 years old. I currently am 64
2 years old, which represents the new generation of
3 seniors, the baby boomers. And in terms of our baby
4 boomers and access, what we're really interested in,
5 what I'm interested in as a private citizen as well is
6 the access to wireless mobile access.

7 Who would have known that we would be so
8 dependent upon communication and wireless. I also
9 support the concept of a US corporation business such
10 as AT&T, the ability that they have professionally to
11 develop jobs, to do training. Also in terms of it, to
12 be able to have the technology to look beyond the
13 future, also to be ready for us in terms of
14 California, in terms of, again, the access for us.
15 I'm an Asian American/Pacific Islander. I also
16 represent the baby boomers. But everyone knows we
17 Asian Americans use that telephone.

18 I also happen to be a 60-year member of the
19 San Francisco Fire Commission, and one of the biggest
20 issues that we deal with is that earthquake, not that
21 when it's going to come, in terms of, again, the
22 preparation, being able to do that. And part of that
23 is going to be communication, as we've grown into
24 ourselves in terms of sophistication and formation.
25 Please support that merge, please give that access to

1 us in terms of our organization.

2 Thank you very much.

3 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

4 Now we have a Daniel Burns. So one after
5 Mr. Burns is Dmitri Belser, who I think we may have
6 already heard of -- is that -- from; is that correct?

7 COMMISSIONER SIMON: No, that's not correct.

8 JUSTICE HECHT: No. All right, then after
9 Mr. Burns we'll take Mr. Belser.

10 MR. BURNS: Good evening. My name is Daniel
11 Burns, B-u-r-n-s. I have no relation to any party
12 here. I'm simply an individual here to express my
13 support in favor of this merger.

14 If you live in San Francisco, you know that
15 you can have spotty service, you can have great
16 service somewhere, awful service others. I have great
17 service at home, I have not great service where I
18 work. There's a T-Mobile tower on the top of my
19 building where I work, and I think that merger -- this
20 merger will allow me to have better service or many
21 people to have better service without constructing
22 more towers.

23 Secondly, I've been a -- a customer of AT&T
24 Wireless since 1998, and that was bought by Cingular,
25 I believe that was in 2005 or something. And when

1 that -- when Cingular bought AT&T, I was -- I -- I --
2 I received better service and -- and wider service.
3 And then Cingular became AT&T again.

4 So I have been a customer of -- of
5 AT&T/Cingular/AT&T Wireless for well over a decade,
6 and with each successive merger, I've realized
7 improved service and appreciated increased value.

8 Thank you.

9 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

10 Now we will have Mr. Belser, followed by
11 Steve Mincey.

12 MR. BELSER: Good evening. I'm Dmitri
13 Belser. I'm the executive director of the Center for
14 Accessible Technology. AT&T has provided past support
15 for my agency.

16 For people with disabilities, the disability
17 community is disproportionately low income and it's
18 also a community that is -- that's partially dependent
19 on the network. And I am supportive of this merger.
20 I think that AT&T/T-Mobile merger, despite having too
21 much Ts in the name, is actually -- would be a good
22 thing.

23 But I want to make sure that both the
24 advantages that my community sees in both these
25 companies is carried forward. AT&T is the only

1 wireless company that has really worked to provide
2 accessible phones for people with disabilities. And
3 T-Mobile has provided low cost plans that people with
4 disabilities have enjoyed.

5 So I really want to make sure that that is
6 something that doesn't get lost. I see the -- the
7 CPUC role in this as somewhat of advocating for the
8 California consumer in the FCC process. And as you
9 are taking that role, I want to see you carry that
10 forward, and make sure that accessibility really is
11 something that's an important issue.

12 And I also just want to mention the CP -- the
13 CPUC website could use some accessibility.

14 Thanks very much.

15 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you and thank you for
16 that input, that is helpful.

17 We'll have Steve Mincey and then Chandra
18 Hauptman.

19 Go ahead.

20 MR. MINCEY: Good evening, Your Honor,
21 Commissioners. My name is Steve Mincey, M-i-n-c-e-y,
22 and I'm a principal with the firm DES Architects and
23 Engineers. We're about a hundred person architecture
24 firm down on the Peninsula and we specialize in
25 providing facilities to businesses here in the region.

1 So as you can well imagine, my company, an
2 architecture firm, is very dependent on having
3 businesses thrive and grow here. I am so passionate
4 about keeping the environment strong for business.
5 I'm also the chair of SAMCEDA, which is the San Mateo
6 Economic Development Association, and I'm here to
7 speak for both of those organizations in favor of the
8 AT&T and T-Mobile merger.

9 SAMCEDA was founded 55 years ago to maintain
10 a strong business environment here. And I think one
11 of the very special aspects of the Peninsula is that
12 there's sort of a keen understanding that businesses,
13 when they do well, so does the community and so do the
14 residents of the community. The companies that we
15 work with and -- and are -- belong to the
16 organization, believe that this merger will help them
17 grow, and will help them prosper here.

18 So as just my own firm, my own small firm, we
19 can provide cell phones to over half of our employees,
20 and it's a big expense. And so I think businesses
21 will be looking at this merger from a standpoint of
22 cutting costs and being more efficient, providing a
23 better system.

24 Due to coverage issues, as you know,
25 sometimes we have to go to other networks, and, in

1 fact, we use the Verizon network for a number of our
2 phones because of coverage issues. So we're hoping
3 the AT&T/T-Mobile merger will allow them to close some
4 of those gaps and make the necessary improvements in
5 their system, such that they can compete with Verizon,
6 be a true competitor to Verizon.

7 So, you know, lastly, I did want to also
8 mention that down on the Peninsula, AT&T has been a
9 great corporate citizen. They do belong to the
10 business organization, I'm speaking about SAMCEDA, but
11 more importantly, they sponsor and participate in
12 community activities, their public outreach folks
13 organize volunteer efforts and they were a key player
14 in emergency preparedness down on the Peninsula
15 earlier this year.

16 So in summary, I believe that keeping AT&T
17 strong and competitive will be good for the
18 marketplace, will be good for businesses here in the
19 region, and that, in turn, will help communities and
20 the residents and consumers.

21 Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Thank you.

23 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

24 Now we have Chandra Hauptman, followed by
25 Sally Sommer.

1 And again, correct me when I mispronounce
2 your names.

3 MS. HAUPTMAN: Good evening. My name is
4 spelled H-a-u-p-t-m-a-n. I would like to thank you
5 all for allowing consumers an opportunity to speak on
6 this important issue. And I wish there were more
7 consumers and less corporations represented.

8 I am against the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile.
9 I feel this will result in a major setback to the
10 gains made by consumers after similar larger
11 corporations were forced to be broken up to allow for
12 access to smaller companies, resulting in better
13 services, more jobs and a more competitive market.

14 We the consumers deserve more choices and
15 more opportunities. AT&T laid off between 2007 and
16 2009 20,000 workers, so I don't know where all these
17 people we're talking about, all these jobs were coming
18 from. And when this merger occurs, if it does, it
19 will result in the loss of more jobs, at a time when
20 unemployment is high and jobs are scarce.

21 Unemployed people cannot afford to keep their
22 homes, feed their families, to pay their health
23 insurance, so what are they going to do. If only two
24 companies gain control of all of our wireless
25 communications, we the consumers will suffer with

1 higher prices, fewer choices for services, and less
2 workers able to provide customer service.

3 Corporate consolidation of print and TV media
4 has resulted in more control of the information that
5 is disseminated and alternative voices have little
6 access to consumers to provide alternative points of
7 view, those users silenced. Please do not allow this
8 merger to occur.

9 Thank you.

10 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

11 Our next speaker will be Sally Sommer and
12 after that, we have a JR McConnell. And I also want
13 to pause at this moment and thank everybody for making
14 your comments well within the time that we've
15 established. And I really appreciate that everybody
16 is making their points concisely and moving forward
17 while having the opportunity to speak, because the
18 most important thing is for everyone to have the
19 opportunity to say what they want to say tonight.

20 Go ahead, Ms. Sommer.

21 MS. SOMMER: Sally Sommer, S-o-m-m-e-r. So I
22 hear a lot about what a good citizen AT&T is and I
23 wonder if that is the reason -- if that is a
24 consideration in allowing this merger to go through,
25 if this is really in the public interest. In other

1 words, will AT&T cease to be a good citizens if this
2 merger does not go through.

3 Have they really proven that they will
4 continue to serve the public interest. Historically,
5 monopolies and duopolies have not served the public
6 interest. They have cost jobs and they have produced
7 higher prices.

8 One of the -- one of the arguments that AT&T
9 has is that they're going to get wireless service to
10 rural areas in the deal. Although they have admitted
11 that they -- it is not cost effective at this point.
12 So are we to believe that after they invest \$39
13 billion it will then be cost effective to serve remote
14 people? I doubt it.

15 I got this out of Forbes, this says the
16 excuse given for this merger to be approved is that
17 AT&T is in desperate need of additional frequencies.
18 That's true, but it then asserts that T-Mobile will
19 provide them. That AT&T will gain any excess capacity
20 is -- from overloaded T-Mobile networks is a
21 fiction -- is a fictitious -- is fictitious. I'm
22 sorry. T-Mobile has little excess capacity to
23 relinquish to AT&T if the merger is allowed to fly.
24 Now, you have to rely on what they say. If they're
25 lying to you, you have to know that.

1 I'm sure it will all be investigated. But
2 this is something already we're just being exposed.

3 With -- with the breakup of Ma Bell,
4 innovation flourished with more competition. Look at
5 the way we make long distance calls now, with
6 companies that came up with Skype, calling cards, you
7 name it. We're now caught -- you know, pay minutes
8 for international calls when we used to pay dollars.

9 So what they say and what -- what it is. The
10 justification that the deal will enhance network
11 efficiencies and provide AT&T with needed additional
12 bandwidth is not true.

13 AT&T will be left with Verizon, a duopoly,
14 which will produce control over the prices and control
15 over innovation, which I say are not in the public
16 interest.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Excuse me. Excuse me,
19 ma'am. Ma'am, excuse me, do you have the date of
20 that -- do you have the date of that Forbes article
21 for purposes -- if you stated it, I misheard it. But
22 I -- I didn't hear it, but do you have the date of
23 that Forbes article?

24 MS. SOMMER: No, but I could certainly get
25 it. I could certainly get it.

1 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Okay.

2 MS. SOMMER: I don't have the date. Would
3 you like me to provide it?

4 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Certainly.

5 MS. SOMMER: I can.

6 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Yeah, I have an advisor
7 in the back that will provide you my information.

8 Okay, thank you.

9 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

10 And the next speaker is JR McConnell, to be
11 followed by RJ Moyer or Moyer.

12 Go ahead.

13 MR. MCCONNELL: Yes. I'm JR McConnell,
14 M-c-C-o-n-n-e-l-l. I'm speaking on behalf -- or I'm
15 sorry, in support of this merger on behalf of the Jobs
16 and Housing Coalition.

17 Jobs and Housing is a space in Oakland, it's
18 a group of major businesses, and we are in support of
19 economic development in Oakland and the region and
20 throughout the state.

21 This merger represents major capital
22 investment for -- from the business community and will
23 result in infrastructure improvements and job growth,
24 both of which are vital to the health and
25 sustainability of the economic future of the region

1 and of the state.

2 With that, we at the Jobs and Housing
3 Coalition urge you to support this merger.

4 Thank you.

5 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

6 Next will be RJ I believe it's Moye and after
7 that, James Velarde.

8 MR. MOYE: That's correct, my name is RJ
9 Moye, that's spelled M-o-y-e. I am the chairman and
10 president of the 100 Blackmen of the Monterey
11 Peninsula, as well as a member of the national board
12 of directors for the 100 Blackmen of America. And I
13 support the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile.

14 I'm a five-year customer of T-Mobile and
15 probably a lifelong customer of AT&T. And one of the
16 reasons that I -- I support this merger is because
17 obviously these two companies are displaying an
18 aggressive business model. And the way the
19 technological world is developing, I think the
20 aggressiveness in improving on broadband service and
21 wireless service is the thing that we should embrace.
22 As a private businessman and I'm an international
23 commercial realtor, my business thrives on now the
24 technology.

25 So the advancement that AT&T is approaching

1 with the merger, with T-Mobile, I think is one that
2 will enhance where we're going. And let's face it,
3 we're going forward. And I think that's what AT&T and
4 T-Mobile are trying to say here, let's go forward with
5 this technology because it has benefitted us to this
6 point. So why not continue to build and grow and go
7 forward?

8 Thank you.

9 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

10 Our next speaker is James Velarde, followed
11 by an Anni Chung.

12 MR. VELARDE: Good evening. James Velarde,
13 spelling on that is V like Victor, e-l-a-r-d-e. I
14 want to thank the Commissioners and Your Honor for the
15 time this afternoon to -- this evening, actually, to
16 speak on behalf of support of the merger of AT&T and
17 T-Mobile.

18 I represent a company down on Monterey that
19 has about 200 employees in the Monterey area and we
20 conduct business all throughout the state of
21 California, and I finally find myself traveling
22 frequently, and require what we call the virtual
23 office, these days being digital connections both via
24 Skype and television conversations for meetings, as
25 well as being connected back with the office and our

1 community.

2 Let's be honest, mergers are not all bad.

3 Yes, there may be some job attrition that becomes a
4 part of this, but what would be the attrition if one
5 of these two companies were to fail. Obviously
6 companies are taken over when they're in distress.
7 Something is happening here that is causing T-Mobile
8 to be a good target for an acquisition, if you will,
9 and I would -- I would harken to say that more jobs
10 would be lost if they were to fail within their area.

11 The other thing is, down on the Peninsula we
12 still have the 3G technology. We have been trying to
13 be upgraded to the 4G technology, but the -- as you
14 all probably know, the site selection process for new
15 towers is very, very arduous. Nobody wants it in
16 their own backyard, but they all want the coverage and
17 they all want the ability to get that.

18 So I think this acquisition and this merger
19 represents a chance to get that coverage down in our
20 community without having to select new cell sites by
21 upgrading the existing cell sites T-Mobile has. They
22 have a very compatible network system that should
23 expedite that process and not have the two-plus years
24 that it would take to possibly select sites if you're
25 able to get them approved.

1 So again, we are here in support of the
2 merger of AT&T and T-Mobile and look forward to you
3 all finding favorable in that decision.

4 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

5 We will have an Anni Chung next, followed by
6 Bill Schulte.

7 And I will, once again, remind everybody to
8 try to speak slowly and clearly for the benefit of the
9 court reporters and for those of us here who are
10 taking notes.

11 MS. CHUNG: Good evening, Commissioners and
12 Judge. I am Anni Chung, C-h-u-n-g, my last name, and
13 I'm with Self-Help For the Elderly, which is a
14 community-based organization serving close to about
15 35,000 seniors in four Bay Area counties, San
16 Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda and Santa Clara County.

17 We provide quite a comprehensive range of
18 social, recreational, educational, senior housing and
19 healthcare services to primarily very low income,
20 manual labor and immigrants, so I'm here to support
21 the AT&T and T-Mobile merger.

22 Many previous speakers have spoken about the
23 excellent record AT&T has on its workforce inclusion
24 and its minority procurement. But I want to
25 particularly emphasize on the community impact that

1 AT&T as a corporate citizen has on our community. I
2 think I been with Self-Help For the Elderly for over
3 30 years now and ever since I remember, when there
4 is -- when there's a critical need in not just a
5 senior community, but also the Asian community, AT&T
6 is almost the first community partner and community
7 business corporation that we will go to because there
8 are many incidents -- incidents that we're going to
9 really need their support.

10 For example, 20 years ago, Self-Help tried to
11 utilize the voiceover Internet protocol, VOIP, to
12 strengthen our own communications network among the
13 different counties. We quickly realized that
14 Chinatown's network is of very poor grade, so instead
15 of spending thousands of dollars on VOIP, we had to
16 first go to AT&T and ask them to help us first upgrade
17 the network where we could then install this
18 technology -- this technology that help lower the cost
19 of our operation so that more money could be spent on
20 direct services like food and shelter and healthcare
21 for the seniors.

22 I also participated in past mergers that
23 created special funding, like the ZeroDivide
24 Foundation or the California Emerging Tech Fund or the
25 Verizon Community Collaborative Fund. All these funds

1 really provide rare opportunities that allow very
2 underserved communities like Chinatown or like the
3 Asian American community, to catch up on the
4 technological needs which have left our communities
5 way, way and far, far behind.

6 Without the mergers, I don't think that
7 grants to our communities could have gotten, that
8 helped us adopt more broadband for low income
9 residents and seniors, open that technology and
10 computer labs to teach low income and monolingual
11 seniors about the computer and the Internet.

12 So these are very valuable community benefits
13 that a merger will yield. And I have to say, mergers
14 are happening in every sector nowadays, in the
15 financial institutions, in healthcare organizations,
16 in airlines, in the IT world, and even in our
17 nonprofit world, because us as consumers are demanding
18 faster service, quicker service, high quality at the
19 lowest cost.

20 Even all of us that run any sort of companies
21 or nonprofit organizations are asked to achieve
22 efficiency in our operation, so --

23 JUSTICE HECHT: Speaking of which, you're
24 about at your time.

25 MS. CHUNG: Okay.

1 JUSTICE HECHT: So if you could wrap up.

2 MS. CHUNG: So I'm going to support the
3 merger and ask that the Commission gather its
4 information and send it on and also approve the
5 merger.

6 Thank you very much.

7 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

8 The next speaker -- the next speaker is
9 Bill Schulte, followed by Jon Fox.

10 MR. SCHULTE: Good evening. Thank you,
11 Commissioners, Judge Hecht for allowing me to speak
12 tonight. My name is Bill Schulte, S-c-h-u-l-t-e. I'm
13 a former director of your consumer services division,
14 and a 30-year employee of the Commission. I'm here
15 tonight representing -- I'm the treasurer of Self-Help
16 For the Elderly, which has received compensation from
17 AT&T over the last 12 months and as a private citizen
18 who has not received compensation over the last 12
19 months.

20 I'm here really to support the proposed
21 merger of AT&T and T-Mobile. As -- I'd like to
22 associate myself with the comments of Ms. Chung, and
23 those before her, who have commented on the tremendous
24 community partnership that AT&T has provided. Not
25 just in terms of financial support, but in terms of

1 volunteer support. And not just this year were major
2 issues at stake, but year in and year out.

3 In terms of -- of the issue before you
4 tonight, I looked at two things, is there sufficient
5 competition, and will consumers of AT&T/T-Mobile be
6 better or worse off.

7 And certainly I expect your staff will do a
8 Herfindahl index looking at market concentration. I
9 think you'll find sufficient competition to continue
10 the downward trend in consumer prices, cell phone
11 prices, according to the GAO over 50 percent in the
12 last ten years.

13 I expect secondly that the consumer might be
14 the big benefactor of this merger. Networks will be
15 easily integrated, expect better coverage and better
16 reception. And this comes from somebody who is less
17 than enthralled with the existing reception of AT&T,
18 and who is considering moving to another competitor.
19 And so I'm optimistic and enthusiastic about the
20 potential consumer benefit to this.

21 That coverage and better reception would be
22 manifested in a number of ways, both in terms of
23 reducing the digital divide as well as economic
24 development.

25 So in summary, I think the merger will --

1 will still provide competition. I think consumers
2 would benefit greatly from this, and I would urge the
3 Commission to find that this merger is in the public
4 interest, and to support the merger before the SEC.

5 Thank you.

6 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

7 Our next speaker will be Jon Fox, followed by
8 I believe it's Reuben Hechanova.

9 MR. FOX: Hello, good evening, my name is Jon
10 Fox, F-o-x. I'm the consumer advocate for CALPIRG,
11 California Public Interest Research Group. And I'm
12 happy to say that we do not accept corporate funding
13 from anyone. And in this case, AT&T or T-Mobile or
14 Sprint or Verizon or Google or anyone else. And it's
15 specifically to provide us the clarity and objectivity
16 that is needed in these situations, so that we're able
17 to serve the public interest and consumers. And
18 that's why I'm here this evening, and thank you for
19 allowing me to speak.

20 We object to this merger and out of the very
21 basic belief that more competition is needed in the
22 American telecommunications industry, not less. I
23 just want to highlight several key points that I think
24 that haven't been mentioned.

25 Just to give a little bit of scale when we

1 talk about the competition, or lack thereof, actually
2 the index is very low for the telecommunications, and
3 it's already highly concentrated in four players. And
4 if this merger would be allowed to move forward, you
5 would have concentration of 76 percent of the market
6 share with AT&T and Verizon, so the two major players
7 would have 76 percent of the market.

8 For comparison with the oil industry, the top
9 two only have 24 percent of the industry. So the
10 comparison at hand is -- imagine BP, Exxon Mobil,
11 Chevron, Shell, Sinco, all merging together, and then
12 you have to sign a two-year contract to buy only from
13 them.

14 And that is the analogy that is more
15 appropriate and something that concerns us, because
16 less competition rarely ends up in the consumer's best
17 interest.

18 As gatekeepers, AT&T will have a
19 disproportionate influence on technologies that have
20 access to the American market, and the pricing in that
21 market. We are concerned about T-Mobile which
22 currently provides the low-end services and cheaper
23 services for people, that that will disappear, simply
24 because AT&T will no longer have an interest if it
25 already dominates over 50 percent of the market.

1 And they also have a history of blocking
2 other services, such as Google Voice and Slingbox, who
3 are competitors to their own service, and they are
4 doing that now and we have reason to believe that they
5 will continue that in the future.

6 AT&T together with Verizon fought to get an
7 exception of net neutrality for mobile net. Looking
8 around this room, I see people with iPads, smart
9 phones, and that's how we're accessing our Internet.
10 The future trend is towards moving away from wired
11 Internet to wireless Internet. So if you look down
12 the future, a monopoly or duopoly in this service is
13 even of more concern, especially given AT&T's record
14 fighting against net neutrality, and this will have
15 potential significant impacts on consumers' first
16 amendment rights when the ability to access, create
17 and share content on the line will be restricted.

18 JUSTICE HECHT: And you're getting towards
19 your time so if you can wrap up.

20 MR. FOX: And so I'd just like to reiterate
21 that we object to this merger and we think that you
22 should not allow it, and you should also recommend to
23 the FCC that they should not move forward as well.

24 Thank you very much, good evening.

25 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Thank you.

1 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

2 Next we have Reuben Hechanova, and after that
3 Teresa Ono.

4 MR. HECHANOVA: My name is Reuben Hechanov,
5 that's H-e-c-h-a-n-o, V as in Victor, a, and I'm not
6 affiliated nor have I received any funding from AT&T.

7 I'm a resident of San Francisco for over 32
8 years, and have raised a family here and look forward
9 to staying in this community. I call it a community,
10 because AT&T is part of our community, and currently
11 is represented and significantly part of the baseball
12 community, amongst many other things.

13 The part by which we all currently live in
14 this economy is where the merger, and I support the
15 merger of both AT&T and T-Mobile, will help both
16 business. I as an architect, my wife is an attorney,
17 will also serve not only on the local way, but also in
18 a national and global competitiveness.

19 While building that, the merger of AT&T is
20 also solid and a win-win situation for not only my
21 family, but for this community here in San Francisco.
22 I too am -- served many and wear many hats in San
23 Francisco. I'm the Commissioner or -- and serve also
24 on the building commission as president, amongst many
25 other business organizations, and the benefit of this

1 to not only the community of San Francisco is also to
2 improve the service, and beneficial in lowering the
3 costs and improving the delivery of service to this
4 community.

5 I say community, because we are a global
6 community. Our wireless and our technology will make
7 that community accessible and also beneficial both for
8 the management and also for the categories by which
9 the workplace for the workforce will also be made
10 better.

11 And how good is that? The technology impact
12 and the effect of providing the delivery of service is
13 going to be better. I believe it's going to be
14 better, because I look at what they will provide as a
15 cup or a glass full as opposed to half empty. The
16 tendency to look at the glass half full or half empty
17 is whether this merger is going to benefit those or
18 those who are going to suffer. And the category of
19 which this will serve to be a glass that is full is
20 that service that they will provide is a technological
21 tool to use, and with the current technology, we
22 become our own editor or access to information. And
23 the better we have access to that information, the
24 more that we can selectively apply what is best for
25 us, not be imposed on the global will of a

1 corporation.

2 How good is this? Well, it's good -- both
3 good for both companies, it's good for their employees
4 on both sides, and also for those who will benefit
5 from the better service.

6 Good for San Francisco, since AT&T is in our
7 community. It's also for both local, national and
8 global competitiveness that this merger will serve.
9 It doesn't get any better and this merger will surely
10 make it and both companies in our community better.

11 Thank you.

12 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you.

13 Next we have Teresa Ono, and after that we
14 will have Natalie Kirkish.

15 Go ahead.

16 MS. ONO: Good evening, Commissioners and the
17 LJS. My name is Teresa Ono, O-n-o, and I have been an
18 AT&T mobile phone user since the first iPhone came out
19 in 2007.

20 I believe the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile
21 will improve coverage in San Francisco where I live,
22 which is definitely needed. There are more and more
23 smart phone users in San Francisco and California, and
24 the merger should result in an advanced long-term
25 evolution network, which will mean fewer dropped

1 calls, stronger signals. Yes, I'm voting for that,
2 and faster data. I use my iPhone all the time and I
3 have over 60 apps on it, and I would love for this
4 merger to be approved so that I can get better and
5 innovative services.

6 I appreciate the opportunity to participate.
7 Thank you.

8 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

9 Next we'll have Natalie Kirkish, followed by
10 Rachel Miller.

11 MS. KIRKISH: Hi, my name is Natalie Kirkish,
12 spelled K-i-r-k-i-s-h. I am independent, not part of
13 any group and I'm representing myself as a consumer of
14 AT&T.

15 I think that the T-Mobile and AT&T merger
16 would increase the speed and strength of AT&T's
17 service, and I really think I represent all AT&T
18 customers when I say it would be a huge benefit. It
19 means having better service in more remote places,
20 having better service in crowded places, and having
21 Internet access in more places.

22 In many instances a cell phone can be a
23 lifeline, and for me better cell phone service will
24 make me feel safer when I'm not at home.

25 I think -- you know, I also represent my age

1 group as a recent college graduate, and I think my age
2 group will benefit a lot from this merger as well. It
3 will significantly increase broadband Internet access
4 to Americans. And as a student, I've used the
5 resources on the Internet for research, applying to
6 college, applying for scholarships and applying for
7 jobs, and I think that all people my age should have
8 an equal opportunity to access the Internet resources.

9 Thank you so much.

10 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

11 Next we'll have Rachel Miller, followed by
12 Matt Wainwright.

13 MS. MILLER: Hi, my name is Rachel Miller,
14 M-i-l-l-e-r. Personally I'm a consumer for AT&T and
15 so I support this merger, but I also support it
16 because I think it's a public health issue. I
17 communicate with my doctors because I have Internet
18 access, and we e-mail and I'm able to video Skype --
19 video chat with them if I need to. And I think just
20 in terms -- especially rural areas where people, it's
21 hard for them to get to their doctor, that they'd have
22 better access if they could have better Internet.

23 Thank you.

24 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

25 Now we will have Matt Wainwright, followed by

1 Donna Davis.

2 MR. WAINWRIGHT: Hi, my name is Matt
3 Wainwright, that's spelled W-a-i-n-w-r-i-g-h-t. I'm a
4 student at University of California Merced, and I have
5 a T-Mobile membership, SIM card, although I use an
6 AT&T phone.

7 At my university, Merced, for those of you
8 that may not know is an underserved community in
9 California, and I experience very spotty service, and
10 I think it reflects this economy and hampers it in
11 many ways, including the university and 55 million
12 Americans would have their 4G coverage improved by
13 this merger. And I think that many of those members
14 that would be improved would be seen in the Merced
15 community.

16 Thank you for your time.

17 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

18 Next we will have Donna Davis, followed by
19 Darrin Holland.

20 MS. DAVIS: I'm getting -- excuse me, sorry.
21 Good evening, council members. My name is Donna
22 Davis, D-a-v-i-s, and our current economic --
23 economical climate this merger will provide both
24 economical and employment stimulus to our world
25 communities as well as improve our time for the first

1 responders to respond to our calls.

2 Thank you.

3 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

4 Now we will have Darrin Holland, followed by

5 Roland Andersen.

6 MR. HOLLAND: Good evening, Commissioner.

7 I'd like to briefly read -- I'm sorry, my name is

8 Darrin, last name Holland, H-o-l-l-a-n-d. I'd like to

9 briefly read some excerpts from a letter drafted --

10 JUSTICE HECHT: If you could please speak a

11 little more loudly.

12 MR. HOLLAND: Sure.

13 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you.

14 MR. HOLLAND: Drafted by the Captain Ken

15 Bernard from the Sacramento City Police to the

16 Commissioner of the Federal Communications -- or

17 Communications Commission. It says, in part, the

18 safety of our nation's citizens is always my greatest

19 concern. With so many Americans cutting the cord on

20 home -- home phones, wireless has become their only

21 means of contacting first responders in emergencies.

22 The first responders, in order to act more accurately

23 and efficiently, require wireless services that have

24 capacity to meet their needs.

25 With the AT&T and T-Mobile merger, there's an

1 estimated increase in coverage of 97 percent, which
2 will -- would stand to reason that our rural
3 communities will have better coverage. And first
4 responders will have greater communication
5 capabilities, both with the community and the
6 community with first responders. And I think this
7 will improve a lot of the -- the response times and
8 that sort of thing during times of crisis and wild
9 fires and that sort of thing. So I definitely support
10 this merger.

11 Thank you.

12 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

13 Next we will have Roland Andersen, followed
14 by Larry Blount.

15 MR. ANDERSEN: Good evening. My name is
16 Roland Andersen, A-n-d-e-r-s-e-n. I'm a steward and
17 member of Local CWA -- pardon me, CWA Local 9410 here
18 in San Francisco. We represent workers at AT&T
19 California and we believe this merger will be good for
20 workers, consumers and our communities.

21 I'd like to address what is the real choice
22 here, AT&T or Sprint. When you analyze this merger,
23 you have to start from the fact that T-Mobile was up
24 for sale. There was no future for an independent
25 T-Mobile. This past January T-Mobile's German owners,

1 Deutsche Telekom, announced they would no longer
2 finance T-Mobile's expansion. T-Mobile does not have
3 a spectrum for the next generation network, so without
4 that network, the company and its employees have no
5 long-term future.

6 There were two companies bidding for
7 T-Mobile, AT&T and Sprint. AT&T is the better choice.
8 AT&T uses the same technology as T-Mobile. Sprint
9 does not.

10 AT&T is financially healthy with resources to
11 invest in broadband infrastructure. Sprint has junk
12 bond rating, has lots of debt and would go deeper into
13 debt to build out its network.

14 AT&T and Sprint are complete opposites with
15 regards to respect for workers' rights. AT&T is the
16 only union wireless company and in accordance with the
17 CWA contract, does not interfere with employees who
18 want a union voice in the job.

19 In contrast, Sprint closed a San Francisco
20 call center of largely Hispanic immigrant employees
21 rather than allow a union vote, and outsources most of
22 its wireless work.

23 Thank you.

24 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

25 We'll continue with Larry Blount, followed by

1 Judy Hu.

2 MR. BLOUNT: Yeah, you pronounce that Blount.

3 JUSTICE HECHT: Blount, I apologize.

4 MR. BLOUNT: No, it's okay.

5 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you for correcting me.

6 MR. BLOUNT: My name is Larry Blount, you

7 spell that B-l-o-u-n-t, and I'm also a member of CWA

8 Local 9423 out of San Jose. And we represent AT&T

9 workers, and we believe that the merger will be good

10 for the workers and consumers and community.

11 AT&T is the only union wireless company. CWA

12 represents 43,000 AT&T employees across the country,

13 and 5300 in the California at three call centers,

14 hundreds of wireless stores and technicians. AT&T

15 Mobility employees, unlike wireless workers at

16 T-Mobile and Sprint, have a voice on the job. And

17 through collective bargaining have an opportunity to

18 improve wages, benefits and working conditions.

19 Some people have said that AT&T and T-Mobile

20 merger will result in job losses. CWA is committed to

21 working with AT&T to ensure that if there is any

22 short-term job reduction of either AT&T or T-Mobile

23 frontline workers, they will come through attrition or

24 bringing overseas work back to California and the

25 United States.

1 Now, this was said by the CEO of AT&T, which
2 is Randall Stephenson, and we need to hold him
3 accountable for what he said. And CWA will strive to
4 do that also. And just to mention that he did mention
5 that into the US Congress.

6 So in -- in the longer term, the merger will
7 create jobs. The Economic Policy Institute, a
8 Washington, D.C. think tank issued a report that found
9 an additional \$8 billion investment that AT&T plans to
10 make as a result of the merger will create as many as
11 96,000 jobs.

12 This is in addition to many new jobs that
13 will be added as a result of broadband expansion,
14 especially in our rural communities. Plus AT&T and
15 T-Mobile workers will have greater employment,
16 security working for a strong thriving company.

17 So again, we do -- the merger, we do
18 basically agree with that, and hope you see it the
19 same way as we do.

20 Thank you.

21 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you, Mr. Blount.

22 Next we have Judy Hu, and after that we have
23 someone whose first name begins with A and the last
24 name is Santiago of a Family Support Services agency,
25 but I cannot read the first name.

1 But we'll proceed with Ms. Hu.

2 MS. HU: Good evening. My name is Judy Hu,
3 spelled H-u. I am with the Chinese Historical Society
4 of America. We are a museum and learning center
5 located in Chinatown at Clay and Powell, and we are
6 here to support the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile. In
7 the hopes that -- we believe that the entirety of AT&T
8 service will improve due to better coverage in a
9 populated city such as San Francisco.

10 We do have tens of thousands of visitors that
11 are both local and tourists, international on a very
12 large basis, so as a museum, our visitors will have
13 better access, making it more convenient for them to
14 maneuver our fair city, since we also do have so many
15 people coming to visit, thus also raising our
16 visibility. And also this is easier access for
17 everyone overall.

18 We are very much in support of AT&T just
19 because also they've been -- always been a strong
20 proponent of art and culture institutions in San
21 Francisco, including ours. And with a stronger
22 service connection and a wider reach, this will enable
23 the company to access more of the population
24 positively.

25 Thank you.

1 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.
2 Are you Mr. Santiago?
3 MR. SANTIAGO: Yes. I apologize for the poor
4 handwriting.
5 JUSTICE HECHT: No problem.
6 MR. SANTIAGO: My name is Amor Santiago,
7 S-a-n-t-i-a-g-o, good evening. I am Dr. Amor
8 Santiago, executive director of APA Family Support
9 Services. We are an agency serving residents of San
10 Francisco, focused on recent Asian and Pacific
11 Islander immigrants and others. Through our network
12 which includes 22 funded and collaborative nonprofit
13 partners we are able to reach 5,000 families in the
14 county.
15 I would like you to know that I've been a
16 long time supporter of AT&T from the days of PacBell,
17 SBC and now AT&T, because they've worked hard to be
18 good corporate citizens and ensure access of phone,
19 Internet and mobile services to low income ethnic
20 communities.
21 Personally until recently my family both had
22 AT&T and T-Mobile services, but I have had very poor
23 customer service and billing errors with T-Mobile that
24 required me to file formal complaints with the CPUC
25 and consumer affairs in the past in order to receive

1 attention and resolution, so thank you very much. We
2 are now an AT&T family at home, and in our local
3 plans.

4 As executive director of APA Family Support
5 Services I welcome the merger because our agency is
6 moving to cloud-based systems to facilitate our work
7 with clients. We have five sites across the city, and
8 our model involves visiting clients in their homes or
9 assisting them outside an office setting. And even
10 better infrastructure for more reliability Internet
11 wireless will allow my staff to have strong networks
12 that will allow them to access information and
13 resources and document their interactions wherever
14 they are through their smart devices and tablets, and
15 with AT&T we will be able to serve our clients better.

16 I would urge you to support this merger, and
17 thank you.

18 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

19 We are going to the second of three sign-up
20 sheets that we have so we will be continuing to
21 observe a two-minute limit for all speakers.

22 Our next speaker now is Robert Longer,
23 followed by Charles Minster.

24 MR. LONGER: Good evening, Your Honor and
25 Commissioners. My name is Robert Longer and I'm the

1 vice president and legislative political director for
2 the Communication Workers of America, that's CWA Local
3 9421 in Sacramento. I stand here in support of the
4 T-Mobile/AT&T merger, the proposed merger, on behalf
5 of CWA, particularly with regards to its benefits for
6 broadband expansion.

7 Broadband is an essential, as you know,
8 infrastructure of the 21st Century and beyond. It
9 spurs economic growth and job creation. It offers new
10 opportunities to improve education, healthcare, even
11 energy conservation. Without broadband, communities
12 and families are disadvantaged. The AT&T/T-Mobile
13 merger will expand wireless next generation broadband
14 throughout California. Next generation 4G LTE
15 wireless can deliver speeds of up to ten megabits per
16 second, which is faster than most broadband speeds
17 today.

18 As a result of this merger, if approved, AT&T
19 has said it will expand next generation high speed
20 wireless broadband to 97 percent of the country,
21 including many parts of rural California that would
22 have not been provided with broadband had not the
23 merger been approved.

24 Again, as stated with the merger, AT&T plans
25 to build this wireless next generation broadband

1 network out more than it would have without the
2 merger, without the merger they had predicted to build
3 to 80 percent of the country.

4 In California, consumers want and demand high
5 speed wireless broadband. Wireless networks depend on
6 wired networks for back haul and to move data and
7 traffic. While this merger is about wireless
8 broadband, the Commission needs to stay vigilant to
9 make sure that every California family and community
10 has access to affordable, high quality and high speed
11 wire line and wireless broadband.

12 Thank you very much.

13 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

14 Our next speaker is Charles Minster, and
15 followed by -- well, the next name I have is Jose
16 Pecho but I believe we already heard from him and so
17 if that is the case, we'll be moving on to Nima
18 Eslamich.

19 Go ahead.

20 MR. MINSTER: My last name is Minster,
21 M-i-n-s-t-e-r. I'm a resident San Francisco, a member
22 of the California Alliance of Retired Americans, the
23 Senior Action Network of San Francisco, the National
24 Active and Retired Federal Employees, and a former
25 delegate to the San Francisco Labor Council. And we

1 choose to be activists in the labor movement in this
2 country.

3 If anybody thinks that there's not going to
4 be job losses or rate increases by this merger taking
5 place, I've got two bridges out here in the Bay to
6 sell you.

7 Now, they're already the largest
8 communication company in the world by revenue, and
9 they are the -- let me see, what was recent -- the
10 largest provided of fixed and mobile phones in the US,
11 so they're the big -- big guy on the block, right?

12 In fact, they got more money than the United
13 States government because their not in debt like the
14 United States government. They can afford to put up I
15 think it's \$25 billion in cash to facilitate this
16 merger, plus stock. Now, guess who's going to pay for
17 this and guess who is paying for this? The customers
18 of AT&T are paying for this. That's how they get
19 their money, AT&T, through our use of their services.

20 So guess how they're going to get that back?
21 They're going to raise the rates. And to sit here and
22 anybody coming up here and saying that they're not, is
23 a liar or a fool. Simple as that.

24 Now, to show you how -- what kind of, really,
25 outfit this AT&T is, the last time I was in here to

1 speak around AT&T issues was in March, when they were
2 looking to raise the rates on the lifeline service in
3 this state. The service that provides phone service,
4 broadband service, just phone service, life and death
5 service to the handicapped, the disability and the
6 poverty stricken. Now, I -- I proposed at that time
7 that AT&T show its good faith, provide this service
8 free of charge, and to write it off their taxes. I
9 wonder if that's going to be forthcoming. I doubt it
10 very much. That would be showing good faith to want
11 this merger.

12 Also, AT&T provided space in their buildings
13 right downtown here for the National Security
14 Administration to -- to spy on our -- on the residents
15 of San Francisco. And it took an act of Congress to
16 prevent them being sued. So that's what kind of
17 outfit we're dealing with in AT&T. It's no friend of
18 mine. It's no friend of the consumer. And it's
19 certainly no friend of the working men and women in
20 this country.

21 Thank you.

22 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

23 I believe we have heard from Jose Pecho. If
24 not, this is the time to speak up.

25 Okay, then the next speaker is Nima Eslamich

1 or Eslamich. Thank you, please tell me how to
2 pronounce your name.

3 MR. ESLAMICH: Eslamich, it's N-i-m-a, and
4 then Eslamich is E-s-l-a-m-i-c-h.

5 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

6 MR. ESLAMICH: Can you hear me? Okay.

7 Well, I'm here on behalf of myself, and, you
8 know, I'm very nervous being here and talking in front
9 of all these people, but --

10 JUSTICE HECHT: It is difficult, so don't
11 worry.

12 MR. ESLAMICH: But I guess not on behalf of
13 myself, I'd like to say that I'm here on behalf of the
14 gays, you know, because AT&T has been very supportive
15 of the gay community, and they are the only like fully
16 unionized wireless service provider to also be
17 offering -- they extend their workers benefits to
18 support same sex couples, so that's why I support
19 them.

20 Also, reception in San Francisco is really
21 bad, so I know that we have a lot of restrictions
22 because people think that cell phone towers are ugly.
23 I'd rather have reception and deal with it, but, yeah.
24 I think we're talking a lot about preserving
25 competition, and I think this is a result of, you

1 know, T-Mobile not doing a good job, not -- that
2 sounds bad, but they haven't offered the top of the
3 line phone line and I think that's probably why they
4 haven't been doing so well. And even before the whole
5 iPhone craze, AT&T always offered top of the line
6 phones, so that's probably it. So more bars in more
7 places.

8 Thanks.

9 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

10 And continuing the names that I'm having
11 trouble reading, we have a Sarah Wan, I believe,
12 followed by Cindy Chavez.

13 Thank you very much, go ahead.

14 MS. WAN: Good evening, Judge and
15 Commissioners. My name is Sarah Wan, last name is
16 W-a-n, and I am the executive director of Community
17 Youth Center of San Francisco, CYC.

18 On behalf of CYC, I'm pleased to have the
19 opportunity to speak in support of the planned merger
20 of AT&T and T-Mobile. At first we have about 25
21 student parents in the audience, they all have to left
22 and didn't have a chance to speak and they have to go
23 home to prepare for dinner.

24 Just want to give you a brief introduction
25 about CYC. We were founded in 1970 and we provide

1 programs and services to over 4,000 high need and
2 Asian youth and their families in San Francisco. And
3 the majority of them, they are new immigrants with low
4 incomes and limited English proficiency.

5 We have worked with many community leaders in
6 the merge over the years and have come to value the
7 commitment and dedication to the needs, safety, and
8 well-being of our community, including AT&T. And just
9 have a note that we do not receive any funding from
10 AT&T for the past 12 months.

11 We believe the merger will benefit the low
12 income and underserved individuals in the Asian and
13 Pacific Islander community, who have not been able to
14 afford computers and/or Internet service and have come
15 to depend on cell phones as their preferred means of
16 affordable communications and Internet access.

17 Mobile technology is essential to empowering
18 our community and the wireless broadband has shown
19 tremendous promise in bridging the digital divide and
20 bringing our community into the digital age.

21 This merger will put the right technologies
22 into our community that we really needed at the right
23 time and the right price, and this merger will mean
24 better, faster and improved service for all,
25 especially the demand for mobile broadband use

1 steadily increasing in we think the underserved
2 communities of color.

3 It would benefit our community in terms of
4 employment opportunities as AT&T is among the highest
5 ranked in the telecommunications industry, for its
6 commitments to diversity in terms of the loyalty,
7 promotion and hiring at the local, state and national
8 level.

9 Moreover, digital citizenship is gaining
10 ground as a fundamental right and this merger can be
11 at the forefront to ensure that the technology divide
12 is breached and everyone has equal access to quality
13 service and affordability.

14 So thank you and we are true to support the
15 merger, thank you.

16 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

17 Our next speaker is Cindy Chavez followed by
18 Murray Pender.

19 MS. CHAVEZ: Good evening. Cindy, last name
20 C-h-a-v-e-z, and I'm the executive officer of the
21 South Bay Labor Council in San Jose, California.
22 Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you
23 today.

24 And I wanted to start by following up on the
25 opening comments that Commissioner Sandoval raised and

1 that was to look at all the different things that
2 could be considered. And on the list was competition,
3 employment, the economy, there were a whole bunch of
4 different things that need to be considered. I think
5 one of the challenges is that our rules haven't
6 necessarily kept up with the change in technology.
7 And because of that, I think we're going to have to
8 think about how we prioritize those rules. And let me
9 just make two points.

10 The first point is, is that as the economy
11 continues to restructure, finding good, strong,
12 middle-class jobs in this country is everybody's
13 business. It's the CPUC's business, it's the
14 government's business, it's the business community's
15 business, it's the business of the labor movement.

16 The second point I want to make is that
17 competition is incredibly important. And if a company
18 like AT&T gets the privilege of becoming larger,
19 regulations have to stay in place that make sure that
20 in this new restructuring economy, that promises made
21 are the promises kept.

22 I'm supportive of the merger, recognizing
23 that in these tough times that both in the short run
24 and the long run it's good for the economy. And I
25 think in the long run it will be good for employment.

1 I think in the long run rules will have to change so
2 it's also good for technology. But I don't want to
3 say willy-nilly that absent regulation, that I would
4 be a hundred percent confident about that. Why,
5 because I think it's enormously important that we're
6 intellectually honest as we can be as we go through
7 this process, and recognizing that all parties have
8 something to get out of it.

9 We do, good jobs. I think, though, that
10 having said that, the core of this is really good for
11 the economy.

12 Thank you.

13 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

14 Next we will have Murray Pender speak,
15 followed by Lori Matoba.

16 Go ahead.

17 MR. PENDER: My name is Murray Pender,
18 P-e-n-d-e-r, and I'm up here to speak against the
19 merger. I'm a little older than a lot of people, and
20 maybe I don't know, it's a lot of things I've seen in
21 the past.

22 And I commend everybody here, the minorities,
23 for AT&T to do that, that's fantastic and I
24 congratulate AT&T, but that's not the question. The
25 question is merger, you're getting larger and larger

1 and larger. And our ancestors and back in our history
2 we came up with antitrust laws. We came up against
3 monopolies. We knew what they did. We knew that they
4 did -- people didn't have a choice. It destroyed a
5 lot of companies trying to get started. They would
6 actually -- actually do things to destroy it. And we
7 talk about the -- the Internet, and the wireless, and
8 AT&T has been fighting net neutrality. Net neutrality
9 is what causes young companies to get started and they
10 don't wipe them out.

11 Now, what I'm saying is, that you can't
12 sometimes when it's down to one company, pull out the
13 cord that's connected that comes into your house and
14 go somewhere else. You can't do that. And it
15 destroys jobs, just like this gentleman said here, if
16 people think they're going to have lower cost, they're
17 mistaken. Monopolies have a history of it. You have
18 to look at history. You have to understand what's
19 happened in the past, and you got to learn and go
20 forward and not go backwards.

21 Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Thank you.

23 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

24 We will now hear from Lori Matoba, followed
25 by Jessica Seter.

1 MS. MATOBA: Hi, Your Honor. I sure thank
2 you for allowing me to speak. My name is Lori Matoba,
3 M-a-t-o-b-a. I live and work in San Francisco's
4 Japantown, one of the three remaining Japantowns in
5 the United States. And I'm here to support the merger
6 between AT&T and T-Mobile.

7 I believe this merger will help benefit the
8 youth and seniors in our community. There's been a
9 lot of increase in the locations of wireless in our
10 community, and I think through their track record and
11 support of our community, that the merger will help
12 better access and improve service and will help us
13 create programs that will help better utilize
14 technology by seniors and nonprofits in our community.

15 I also believe that it will also decrease the
16 need to build new cell sites, which will also help
17 increase the service to consumers like myself. I
18 hope -- I'd like to ask you to help expedite and
19 promote this merger.

20 Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Thank you.

22 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

23 We will have -- we will hear from
24 Jessica Seter, S-e-t-e-r, I believe is the spelling,
25 followed by Marilu Sandeja, again, I believe it's

1 S-a-n-d-e-j-a. I'm having trouble reading the
2 writing. Are either of those people here?

3 Is anybody here with the name similar to one
4 of those? Okay.

5 We'll come back to that. Then I will ask for
6 Caryl Ito, followed by Michael Barret.

7 MS. ITO: Thank you, good evening, Your Honor
8 and Commissioners. My name is Caryl Ito, it's I-t-o.
9 I've been a longtime resident of San Francisco for
10 over 35 years, and a small business owner, dependent
11 on wireless technology.

12 I am in support of this merger for the
13 following reasons. This merger will deliver the
14 needed wireless technology to allow more people in
15 California to access services. It will provide a
16 solution to the impending wireless technology
17 challenges to meet service growth demands in the near
18 future. It will also provide improved cell site
19 density for better performance.

20 And I personally experience that with the
21 previous mergers of AT&T and Cingular. The wireless
22 costs should decline with combined efficiencies and I
23 hope as one of the previous speakers suggested, that
24 the Commission will provide oversight and perhaps
25 periodic reports on if this merger is approved, how

1 these kinds of efficiencies and costs are being
2 managed.

3 And last but not least, I think you heard
4 most of this evening that AT&T has been an exceptional
5 community partner in the Bay Area, and particularly in
6 the communities of color.

7 Thank you.

8 I have a written statement that I could
9 submit also. Should I leave it with the person in the
10 back?

11 JUSTICE HECHT: You can leave that with the
12 court reporter and it can be attached to the back of
13 the transcript of this hearing, if you would like.
14 And others who have written statements are welcome to
15 do the same thing. My hope is that everybody is able
16 to speak their statement and that isn't necessary, but
17 if you prefer it, it is an option.

18 We will have Michael Barret, followed by
19 Peter Bostic.

20 MR. BARRET: Good evening, Judge,
21 Commissioner. Thank you for the opportunity to
22 address this very monumental question of merger.

23 I've decided to take -- because it is so
24 monumental, and because there are so many letters
25 involved in different organizations, et cetera, I'm

1 taking the letters and definition approach to this
2 problem.

3 I am against the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile.

4 I am very happy to be associated with TURN,
5 T-U-R-N. Now, I'll start with CPUC, which is
6 California Public Utility Commission, which is the
7 overlooker for us, the people, in the state of
8 California and law being administered.

9 TURN, whom I associate with is the Urban --
10 The Utility Reform Network, that tries to represent
11 the people in cases like this.

12 AT&T is American Telephone & Telegraph,
13 T-Mobile is a division of Deutsche Telekom.

14 Now, all these things spell a lot of things,
15 so I'm going to spell out what I think is wrong with
16 this merger. Because just in 2006, AT&T spent 86
17 billion to gobble up Bellsouth, now they're coming up
18 with 39 billion to gobble up Deutsche.

19 I am against this, because of the letters
20 M-o-n-o-p-o-l-y, monopoly, defined in Webster's
21 Dictionary as the exclusive control of a commodity
22 service or means of production in a particular market
23 with result and power to fix prices and eliminate
24 competition.

25 Now, the secondary division of that has to do

1 with the law, which concerns the CPUC. The law in
2 relation to a monopoly is an exclusive right or
3 privilege granted by a government of buying, selling,
4 making or using anything. That is why I'm against
5 this merger and strongly suggest the CPUC not allow
6 it.

7 Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Thank you.

9 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you.

10 Next we will here from Peter Bostic, followed
11 by Ron Lee.

12 MR. BOSTIC: Hello. Thank you, Honorable
13 Judge, members of the Commission. My name is Peter
14 Bostic, B-o, S as in Sam, t-i-c. I'm the executive
15 director of the Institutional Advancement at Solano
16 Community College and former executive director of
17 Buchanan YMCA, so I feel at home.

18 We are a proud recipient of a recent grant
19 from AT&T to -- so I do want to acknowledge that, to
20 support high school students coming to college. But
21 I'm kind of speaking today as a citizen. To make ends
22 meet right now I'm commuting from Long Beach to
23 Vallejo, and in my Long Beach home I have traditional
24 landlines and cables and wires and it's sometimes
25 difficult to communicate with the household. Up here

1 I'm wireless with my phone. I have the mobile
2 Internet. I'm able to be on 24/7. And as the public
3 affairs director as well as the emergency response
4 team director, it's quite comforting to know that I
5 can be in connection with everyone that I need to be
6 from an emergency standpoint, whether I'm on campus or
7 not. I think that this merger is going to help save
8 lives because of the increase in access in coverage.

9 I was with one of our professors earlier this
10 month, Dr. McCord, who took 35 students on a bus and
11 we -- we -- we followed the Freedom Riders, so we went
12 to five different states in the south. I tell you,
13 there was some evenings I was really happy that I knew
14 I had my mobile Internet. If I got stuck or in
15 trouble we could be connected right away.

16 But along that trip, I want to go back to
17 this philanthropy issue, on that trip we went to the
18 B.B. King Museum and there was a building attached to
19 that museum, and the YMCA pulled up and kids were
20 going into that building, so I wanted to see what --
21 what was that building. AT&T had built a learning
22 center attached to the museum because they wanted to
23 teach music, since music was no longer in the school
24 system.

25 And I've been in philanthropy about 35 years,

1 so whether I was a nonprofit director in Orange
2 County, in Long Beach, here in San Francisco or
3 Solano, AT&T has always been a good corporate citizen.
4 So I don't think -- I don't see why they would stop
5 now. So I'd just like to say I'm supportive of the
6 merger between the two, AT&T and T-Mobile.

7 Thank you very much.

8 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you.

9 Now we will hear from Ron Lee, followed by
10 C.C.

11 COMMISSIONER SIMON: C.C. Yin.

12 JUSTICE HECHT: Okay, thank you. I can only
13 read what I have, thank you.

14 MR. CHAN: Ron Lee has given the spot to me.
15 My name Hanley Chan. I'll be -- just like Jackie
16 Chan, C-h-a-n. I'll be representing Cathay Post 384,
17 Chinese American Veterans. Some of our members left.
18 The current members I guess raise their hands if
19 they're here. All right. I'll be speaking on their
20 behalf too because they have to leave.

21 We are in support of the AT&T merger. I
22 think this will bring I guess more reception to San
23 Franciscans. I believe that they are doing a very
24 good job with the communities and I see a lot of
25 ethnic communities supporting AT&T merger, and I

1 believe this is a good thing for California and San
2 Francisco.

3 Thank you.

4 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

5 We've been going for about two hours. After
6 our next speaker I'm going to take a five-minute break
7 to give all of us a chance to just stretch. It will
8 be only a five-minute break, so we will come back
9 promptly.

10 So our next speaker is C.C. Yin, and we
11 should go from there.

12 MR. YIN: Good evening, Judge and
13 Commissioner Simon, Commissioner Sandoval. My name is
14 C.C. Yin, spelling Y-i-n. I'm the chair of Asian
15 Pacific Islander, American Public Affairs Association,
16 stand for nonprofit -- nonprofit educational
17 foundation. We are a proud recipient of AT&T's
18 support for our educational program, such as voters'
19 education and youth leadership, summer internship
20 scholarships. I'm here speak in support of the merger
21 for the following two reasons.

22 One, is that the merger would provide AT&T to
23 give greater access to the high speed wireless
24 broadband that eventually benefit Asian American
25 community, as shown the English-speaking Asians are

1 the leading users of the high speed wireless
2 broadband.

3 Second, is that long history of AT&T's
4 corporate leadership in support of the diversity,
5 including its employees and suppliers, especially the
6 Asian community.

7 And I would ask the Commissioners to vote in
8 support of merger so AT&T can have better resources to
9 support the Asian Americans and other underserved
10 minorities.

11 Thank you.

12 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

13 In a moment we're going to take a short
14 break. We have another I believe 29 speakers who
15 would like to speak tonight and I would like to
16 accommodate them, so we're going to take a five-minute
17 break, no more than five minutes and when we come
18 back, each of the remaining speakers will get two
19 minutes.

20 Thank you very much. We'll be off the
21 record.

22 (Recess.)

23 JUSTICE HECHT: All right, we are beginning.
24 We will be on the record. We are back from our break
25 and we are taking our next speaker. The next speaker

1 on my list is Tina Mak. Tina Mak, I would love to
2 hear from you if you are still here. Because we're
3 just coming back from break, I'll take the next
4 speaker and then we'll move on. So do we have either
5 Tina Mak or David Wong?

6 Then we'll move to Matt Gatto. It looks like
7 we have Mr. Gatto.

8 MR. GATTO: Hello. My name is Matt Gatto,
9 last name spelled G-a-t-t-o. I'm here to speak out
10 against the merger.

11 I was an AT&T DSL broadband subscriber up
12 until a month ago, and I read in the news that AT&T
13 was instituting bandwidth caps for their broadband
14 that would probably stop you from -- if you use
15 YouTube or something, you know, streaming video a lot
16 you probably -- I mean, I don't know because I didn't
17 stick around, I switched to Sonic.net, but I figure
18 you probably run out in like a couple of days of
19 available bandwidth before you got cut off, and then
20 you get a bill in the mail at the end of the month for
21 who knows how much, whatever they want to charge you
22 extra.

23 And of course they wouldn't do that if there
24 was sufficient competition, but they're -- really for
25 like broadband, there's not. I mean, you've got AT&T,

1 Sonic.net, a small provider, you've got Comcast,
2 they're -- they pretty much do the same thing.

3 So I switched to Sonic.net but I still have
4 T-Mobile. I'm a T-Mobile mobile phone subscriber, and
5 I won't be if the merger goes through because after
6 dealing with AT&T's customer service, where it takes
7 three or four days to reset my password to their
8 website so I can pay my bill, because AT&T is such a
9 giant conglomerate that, one, each -- people just
10 don't know like who -- what parts of what departments
11 are responsible for what things, so they don't know
12 who to route you to. You get bounced around in the --
13 in the -- the phone support system for hours, and
14 maybe get disconnected and so on.

15 It said yesterday in the news that AT&T and
16 Verizon both decided to eliminate unlimited wireless
17 plans, and they're going to have like a two gigabyte
18 monthly cap, apparently. And that's really small. I
19 mean, you could -- I could go through that in like a
20 day, easily.

21 And people who are using their mobile phones
22 a lot, like people who are using it as GPS, drivers,
23 any business place, I'm sure, is using Google Maps or
24 downloading e-mail, live video, YouTube, whatever, you
25 know, could easily overrun that.

1 JUSTICE HECHT: We're getting close to your
2 two minutes so if you could wrap up, please.

3 MR. GATTO: So iStockAnalyst.com had licensed
4 it and said in an article, we believe there's a strong
5 case against merger, given the already growing
6 dominance of AT&T and Verizon Wireless and the other
7 options available to meet AT&T's capacity. The way
8 they can improve service is to build more cell towers,
9 which I'm sure there's like problems with zoning and
10 getting approval from community groups, upgrading
11 existing computers that are actually routing the
12 traffic, and freeing up existing frequencies,
13 something Congress is working on but very slowly, so
14 there's more frequencies for the wireless data to go
15 on.

16 JUSTICE HECHT: All right, your time is up.
17 If you have written comments that you would like to
18 give to the court reporter, we can have them attached
19 to the transcript.

20 MR. GATTO: Yeah, so, that's it. Thank you.

21 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

22 Because I called their names just as we were
23 coming back from break, I will give another
24 opportunity for Tina Mak. No? No Tina Mak. And
25 David Wong? No, no David Wong.

1 Then the next speaker written down is C.C.,
2 but I believe we already heard from him, and after him
3 is Rich Hashimoto.

4 Go ahead, Mr. Hashimoto.

5 MR. HASHIMOTO: Thank you very much, Your
6 Honor, Commissioner. My name is Rich Hashimoto, last
7 name spelled H-a-s-h-i-m-o-t-o.

8 I'm the president of the Japantown Merchants
9 Association. I'm also a board member of the Fillmore
10 Community Benefit District. Both the communities are
11 in the Western Edition, and the Western Edition,
12 unfortunately, has poor reception from AT&T, which
13 puts us at an economic disadvantage. The Fillmore
14 Jazz District is currently going into renaissance
15 right now and obviously it puts us at an economic
16 disadvantage when you don't have proper cell service.

17 With that being said, I also am -- serve on
18 other board member -- of other boards of
19 communities -- committees, in the community, and one
20 of the things that I think -- although the Merchants
21 Association and the Fillmore CBT does not receive
22 community benefits or community participation from
23 AT&T, I think it's important that you have to look at
24 the community participation from AT&T to those
25 communities' organizations. They don't really --

1 well, they would get more community benefits from AT&T
2 with this merger so, therefore, we fully support the
3 merger between AT&T and T-Mobile.

4 Thank you very much.

5 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Thank you.

6 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

7 Our next speaker is AB Richardson, followed
8 by I believe is Nelson Lum.

9 MR. RICHARDSON: Thank you, Your Honor and
10 Commissioner. Last name is spelled
11 R-i-c-h-a-r-d-s-o-n.

12 I was given the title of archbishop because
13 it is my responsibility to look at everybody the same
14 way. There is no difference of race to a human being.
15 We are all one. And when that day gets here, we will
16 be able to help you more here in the United States and
17 San Francisco.

18 I'm reminded of the Roman empire, which was
19 one of the most powerful empires in this nation in
20 biblical times, called it the Roman candle, controlled
21 everything, and at night the candles were lynched and
22 lit and people were no more.

23 I'm reminded of Pharaoh's army, where Pharaoh
24 made them make straw, with a brick out of straw --
25 brick with straw but without straw. I'm reminded of

1 Moses, that was sent to Pharaoh and said, let the
2 people go free, for they believe in this.

3 Whenever you let a small group of people
4 create slave camps, slave trades, nobody wins, at all.
5 Everybody loses.

6 I talked about the deaf, dumb, the lame and
7 the blind. I want to see what happens to low income
8 families. What's going to happen? We're in the land
9 of technology. We're talking about welfare to work.
10 Where most low income housing projects aren't even
11 hooked up. Where most Federal public housing projects
12 are not even hooked up. Where most people live there
13 can't even afford to get on the Internet.

14 Now, my biggest challenge yet is the prison
15 system. Well, I've been contacted by several groups,
16 collect calls, collect calls going to grandmothers,
17 single mothers, and the bill they get. They can't
18 afford it.

19 So what happens? Their phone gets cut off.
20 Then what happens? Their credit gets messed up. Then
21 what happens? Now you have locked them out of the
22 process of communication.

23 And in closing, I'm reminded of Alexander
24 Graham Bell, that created this enterprise. And the
25 African-American community doesn't have -- own a

1 satellite. It does not own a communications network.
2 And by locking us out, the American California, the
3 people, I have a dream to have a cell business one
4 day. I have a dream to be able to do what they do and
5 serve our own community.

6 This really needs to be looked at, need to be
7 very cautious that we don't lock people out. And if
8 something goes down like Wall Street and homeowners
9 lost all their homes, no matter what you do here
10 tonight, we can never let that happen to the American
11 public again.

12 Thank you.

13 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

14 First, I want to acknowledge that
15 Commissioner Simon is still here, and I'm very pleased
16 that he has joined us and stuck with us this long. I
17 want to apologize on behalf of Commissioner Sandoval
18 who had another meeting this evening and was not able
19 to stay. But is very glad that everybody is here and
20 sticking with this process.

21 And I want to reiterate that I'm really happy
22 that you're all here and I really appreciate the
23 effort that you made to be here and that you're
24 staying here late to speak with us and give us your
25 viewpoint.

1 So with that, our next speaker is Nelson Lum,
2 and after that is Joan Mathis. Do we have Nelson Lum?
3 Doesn't look like it, so we will move on to Joan
4 Mathis and then Julius Turman.

5 Okay, looks like we don't have Joan Mathis,
6 but would you be Julius Turman?

7 MR. TURMAN: I would be. Thank you.

8 JUSTICE HECHT: Great.

9 MR. TURMAN: My name is Julius Turman,
10 J-u-l-i-u-s, T-u-r-m-a-n, and I am here as an
11 individual. I am very active in my community and I
12 care a great deal about the future of San Francisco
13 but I am here speaking for myself. And I'm here to
14 express that I'm very much in favor of this merger.

15 It is interesting all the opinions that
16 you've heard, and I know you must weigh those very
17 carefully. And in weighing those opinions, I want you
18 to pay close attention to some of the things we've
19 heard, such as, historically what has happened, what
20 companies do and will they -- will they -- will we
21 lose jobs and -- and all of the things that they say
22 will happen and speculate basically as to what will
23 happen.

24 But I think it is important to realize that
25 AT&T has been an incredible corporate citizen.

1 Although I cannot say that it recently gave me any
2 personal gain or support, I can tell you that it --
3 not long ago I was a recipient of -- well, long ago, I
4 was a recipient of a training program for inner city
5 youth as well as a scholarship that allowed me to go
6 to college, and I received that from AT&T. And I'm
7 grateful to them.

8 Now, some citizens may say that, you know,
9 perhaps it was -- it was AT&T giving me those things
10 that now makes me beholden to them because now they've
11 allowed me to have a job where I'm tied to this --
12 this technology to communicate with work and tied to
13 another technology to communicate with my personal
14 home and family.

15 But I will tell you that without their
16 services, I think that I would be lost to communicate
17 with all of the important aspects of my world.

18 It's more than -- than improved wireless
19 experience for customers, and it's more than the wide
20 coverage area and advanced 4G network. And a 4G
21 network that doesn't even exist in Silicon Valley,
22 which is hard to believe. Which on the Peninsula, we
23 don't have 4G network, which speaks to the employment
24 issue. It's not going away. We need those folks to
25 build that network.

1 Is AT&T a good corporate citizen? You've
2 heard communities of color, disability rights
3 advocates, and LGBT folks talk about what they have
4 done for them. That was long before there was any
5 talk of a merger. That was long before they were here
6 asking you to consider this merger.

7 And there's no reason to believe that that
8 would change. In fact, I will tell you that this
9 whole encouraging of a narrow view of job creation,
10 the jobs that create -- that are just at AT&T, that's
11 the wrong way to look at this. AT&T and the services
12 they provide allow many of us to have employment,
13 employment outside of AT&T.

14 It's also a very narrow view to say that only
15 numbers, how many of -- sometimes companies -- a
16 company exists in competition. The fostering of
17 ideas, the ability to create, that also -- to create
18 better products and better services, that creates
19 better competition, because everyone must step up to
20 that level.

21 JUSTICE HECHT: And you're about out of time
22 so if you could wrap up.

23 MR. TURMAN: Sure. So I would -- I would
24 like to just say that I'm -- is AT&T a friend to the
25 common worker? Certainly the people who work at CWA

1 think so and I think so too. And I hope you will
2 approve this merger.

3 Thanks.

4 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

5 I'm going to go backwards and ask once again
6 for Nelson Lum or Joan Mathis. If either of them have
7 come in while Mr. Turman was speaking? It appears
8 that they haven't.

9 So our next speaker is Jessica Burns.
10 Jessica Burns will be followed by William Speight.

11 MS. BURNS: So my name is Jessica Burns,
12 B-u-r-n-s. I want to preface this by saying that I'm
13 a Sprint customer, but I'm not concerned about the
14 duopoly, because my service has been great and I don't
15 think I'll feel pressured to switch providers if the
16 merger takes place.

17 But from what I gather from my friends who
18 have AT&T, it obviously needs to expand its service
19 capacity, and it will be more efficient to expand
20 using an existing service capacity rather than by
21 building new cell sites. And both AT&T and T-Mobile
22 customers will see an improvement in coverage from
23 this.

24 I also wanted to mention something that
25 hasn't really been addressed, but T-Mobile's currently

1 in the hands of a German company, and the merger will
2 put T-Mobile in American hands to improve service to
3 American interests and customers.

4 So I just wanted to be brief, that's all.

5 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

6 Our next speaker is William Speight or
7 Speight.

8 MR. SPEIGHT: Speight.

9 JUSTICE HECHT: Speight, thank you. And
10 after that James Piety.

11 MR. SPEIGHT: As a current employee and
12 graduate student at UC Berkeley and founder of a small
13 clothing company, I support the merger with no
14 conditions. The increased communication speed,
15 reduced dropped calls and greater capacity -- capacity
16 for smart phone data acquisition allows for increased
17 ease with working with colleagues from ours and other
18 campuses, when dealing with current research, business
19 opportunities and large university gatherings. The
20 merger allows for these benefits while keeping the
21 campus beauty intact by filling AT&T's need for
22 increased infrastructure in the area.

23 Finally, the increased ease -- increased ease
24 of communication leads to increased economic growth
25 and, therefore, increased job growth for the general

1 business market, even if the job growth does not
2 necessarily occur in the realm of wireless
3 communications. Therefore, I support progress in
4 communications by supporting the merger with no
5 conditions.

6 Thank you.

7 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

8 Next is James Piety, followed by Kevin
9 Gibbin, Gibson.

10 MR. PIETY: Hi, my name is James Piety,
11 P-i-e-t-y, and I'm a student at Cal Berkeley. And I
12 support this merger with no conditions because for a
13 few reasons. I believe, one, it is going to increase
14 broadband coverage. It's going to better wireless
15 communications. And as an engineering student, I feel
16 like this would be very beneficial to a lot of
17 engineering-based companies as well as any other
18 companies that are technologically based, which is a
19 lot.

20 Also, I do believe that this -- that AT&T has
21 a -- has a union and so this will benefit a lot of
22 workers, and so even though maybe jobs will be lost in
23 the long run, this job security from the unions will
24 also benefit in the long run.

25 And second -- and thirdly, the merger will

1 help increase competition, making AT&T more compatible
2 with -- I mean, competitive with Verizon Wireless and
3 I think that would be better in the future as well.

4 Thank you.

5 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

6 Is Kevin Gibson I believe it is here? Great,
7 to be followed by Brian Webster.

8 MR. GIBSON: Hi, my name is Kevin Gibson.

9 I'm a student at the University of California
10 Berkeley, that's G-i-b-s-o-n. I'm in support of the
11 merger without conditions.

12 The merger will result in broadband access
13 for over 97 percent of all Americans. The merger will
14 use private investment to increase broadband access,
15 strengthen the digital divide and meet exploding
16 demand for wireless broadband.

17 There's also the labor issue. AT&T is the
18 only unionized major wireless company in the US.
19 After the merger, T-Mobile employees will have the
20 option of unionizing and enjoying more work
21 protection. There's still going to be a lot of
22 competition. In 22 of the top 25 markets there are
23 still five or more wireless competitors.

24 Additionally, despite what people said to the
25 contrary, wireless prices have decreased by 50 percent

1 over the last 20 years, despite massive mergers. In
2 fact, these mergers are allowing lower cost and higher
3 quality of service for citizens.

4 Finally, as a community service officer for
5 UCPD and as an intern at the district attorney's
6 office, I speak only for myself on this and not my
7 respective organizations, but to -- but to have
8 confidence in good reliable service in San Francisco
9 and certainly in Berkeley has directly resulted and,
10 you know, saved lives and the ability for students and
11 people in San Francisco to feel safe, and I think that
12 is very important. And even if we look to the fact
13 that US Sprint and others may be eased out, there are
14 going to remain a large amount of AT&T customers in
15 San Francisco and they deserve to have a coverage that
16 keeps them safe.

17 Thank you very much.

18 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

19 Our next speaker is Brian, it's either
20 Worster or Webster.

21 MR. WEBSTER: Webster.

22 JUSTICE HECHT: Followed by Rose Chung.

23 Webster?

24 MR. WEBSTER: Webster.

25 JUSTICE HECHT: I apologize.

1 MR. WEBSTER: No problem, Webster like the
2 dictionary.

3 Okay, so I'm Brian Webster. I am the chief
4 of staff at Instituto Laboral de la Raza. It's a
5 workers resource center here in San Francisco. We
6 serve the working poor and help enforce the California
7 labor laws.

8 We're well known for a large labor community
9 awards summit event that we do here in San Francisco
10 every year. And in addition to serving, you know,
11 very hardworking, mostly Spanish speaking, Hispanic
12 clients, very poor, very hardworking, we also track
13 these larger issues. So we're big supporters of the
14 high speed rail system because it's going to benefit
15 the economy and we're big supporters of this merger.

16 We sent in a May 19th letter in favor of the
17 merger. I'm actually not sure why this hearing is
18 happening because it is an SEC and a Federal issue,
19 but I do appreciate the opportunity to -- to speak in
20 favor of this merger. I think that, you know, it's
21 going to be a good thing. It's going to expand the
22 reach, the coverage reach to 97 percent.

23 The unique thing about AT&T is that it's the
24 largest -- you know, it's big, but it's also the
25 largest employer of organized labor in the United

1 States of America. And that's -- that's a very
2 important thing, because now the T-Mobile workers will
3 be able to join the Communication Workers of America,
4 and that's going to be good for the economy. That's
5 going to be good for the community. It's going to be
6 good for a lot of different people.

7 I actually use AT&T Wireless and I keep a
8 prepaid T-Mobile cell phone. So when I go into the
9 T-Mobile shops I ask the workers there about the
10 merger, they say that, you know, the benefits are
11 pretty good for -- at T-Mobile, but the benefits are
12 going to be even better at AT&T, and they're pretty
13 excited about the thing going through.

14 AT&T is a great corporate citizen. They are
15 actually, you know, No. 1 many years in a row in terms
16 of their contributions to community-based
17 organizations and -- and charities and, you know,
18 they're a great corporate citizen.

19 And I appreciate, you know, what the -- the
20 work that CALPIRG does but the communications industry
21 is different from the oil industry. It's definitely
22 not the same. It's a lot -- there's going to be a lot
23 of competition -- just like the young man said before
24 me, there's going to be a lot of competition, and
25 there's going to be -- this merger, I think, we

1 believe, will provide better -- better service, better
2 access and the communication -- the competition will
3 be there, you know, from the big companies and the
4 small companies. That's just the way the high tech
5 communications market is.

6 So we really believe that this will not
7 limit, you know, competition or access. And we
8 believe that this is going to be very good for San
9 Francisco, good for California and good for the United
10 States of America.

11 So thanks for the opportunity and thank you
12 Commissioners Simon and Sandoval, and you too.

13 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

14 Our next speaker is Rose Chung, followed by
15 Thomas Cheplick.

16 MS. CHUNG: Rose Chung, C-h-u-n-g. I am the
17 president of the board of APA Family Support Services.
18 Our executive director Amor Santiago spoke earlier and
19 forgot to mention that AT&T is a sponsor of our annual
20 fundraising dinner.

21 APA Family Support Services is currently
22 working with UCSF on a research project that involves
23 using smart phones and other mobile devices to support
24 the health of low income ethnic clients. The use of
25 these devices with information and applications

1 available have a potential to improve and facilitate
2 better health. A stronger network will ensure higher
3 quality and consistent access to those services.

4 With the merger, the network -- network
5 strength would improve up to 35 percent in San
6 Francisco. And the overseas roaming charges would
7 also come down, which is good for our immigrant
8 population, so that they do not have to spend a lot of
9 money on talking to their families overseas. More
10 competition for broadband Internet will also cause
11 Comcast to lower the prices on the Internet it
12 provides.

13 Thank you.

14 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

15 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Thank you.

16 JUSTICE HECHT: Now it is time for Thomas
17 Chaplick or Cheplick, followed by Al Perez.

18 MR. CHEPLICK: I'm -- I'm Thomas Cheplick.
19 I'm living in San Francisco, and I'm here to say I
20 support the T-Mobile/AT&T merger. I'm doing this
21 because I think that the unions are correct, that it
22 will result in more jobs for Americans, and I also
23 believe that this merger will stick it to Verizon and
24 allow me to at last get out of my Verizon contract and
25 go to AT&T, because AT&T will be a better carrier.

1 And then I have one more point, I think that
2 people who are screaming that this merger represents
3 some sort of monopoly threat, they -- they don't have
4 a good understanding of monopoly, and because I don't
5 see them screaming the word "monopoly" in relationship
6 to the lawyer cartel, the architect cartel, the doctor
7 cartel, all these cartels in the American economy that
8 are monopolies, none of them scream over it but they
9 scream over this. That will only create jobs for
10 Americans and improve service, so I very much hope
11 that you approve this without conditions.

12 Thank you.

13 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you Mr. Cheplick.

14 THE REPORTER: Spell your name, please.

15 MR. CHEPLICK: C-h-e-p-l-i-c-k.

16 JUSTICE HECHT: All right. We will hear from
17 Al Perez, followed by Marily Mondejar.

18 MR. PEREZ: Hello, my name is Al Perez,
19 that's P-e-r-e-z. I'm here to support the merger of
20 the AT&T and T-Mobile. I serve as president of the
21 Filipino American Arts Exposition, whose mission is to
22 promote and preserve Filipino American heritage and
23 culture. I represent the many emerging Filipino
24 American performing artists from around the San
25 Francisco Bay Area.

1 I believe this merger will provide wider
2 Internet access and facilitate the development of new
3 technologies that many minority artists need very
4 badly to promote themselves and their artistic work in
5 cyberspace.

6 Just like Filipino teenager Charice Pempengco
7 who live in a remote province in the Philippines and
8 was discovered on YouTube by Ellen DeGeneres and also
9 by Oprah. Charice is now a featured artist on the hit
10 TV show Glee and her journey is just like the story of
11 Internet sensation Justin Beiber.

12 So I urge you support greater access to the
13 Internet and access to new technologies by emerging
14 minority artists. I ask you to approve the merger of
15 AT&T and T-Mobile.

16 Thank you.

17 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

18 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Well, I tell you, this
19 Justin Beiber reference, this is -- this is the best
20 I've heard yet. You get the award tonight.

21 JUSTICE HECHT: That and Glee --

22 COMMISSIONER SIMON: That and Glee.

23 JUSTICE HECHT: -- both require
24 acknowledgement.

25 Our next speaker is Marily Mondejar, followed

1 by Lou Fischer.

2 MS. MONDEJAR: It's Marily Mondejar.

3 JUSTICE HECHT: Oh, I apologize. Thank you.

4 MS. MONDEJAR: That's okay, everybody always
5 mispronounces it, M-o-n-d-e-j-a-r.

6 So good evening, and my name is Marily
7 Mondejar and I am here to express my support for the
8 merger of AT&T and T-Mobile. I represent the Filipina
9 Women's Network. We're a nonprofit organization of
10 women of Philippine ancestry based in the United
11 States, a very underserved group. And we have -- we
12 are based in San Francisco.

13 Technology is very important to us. When we
14 started our organization about 2001 we utilized
15 technology for outreach at a time when AOL was the
16 major and largest provider, but we thought that that
17 was the most effective way to grow our organization,
18 so from 50 members about over 10,000 today.

19 20 percent of our membership are small
20 businesses, and AT&T has a policy to support
21 minorities and women business owners, which creates
22 jobs.

23 Approving this merger will provide -- will
24 provide us the reach to -- so -- and the bandwidth to
25 grow globally, have access to new technologies and

1 inspire innovation. We've always used technology to
2 grow our organization and are moving to hopefully
3 cloud based systems and we're slowly getting to that.

4 But I am most, you know, happy to commend
5 AT&T. FWN, the Filipina Women's Network, has a
6 Filipinas Against Violence campaign, which is now
7 Spanish or Asian sisters, Asian women against
8 violence. And very, very few people know that AT&T
9 has this language access line, and this service has
10 provided assistance to domestic violence victims and
11 survivors who speak English with limited proficiency.
12 They provide it and donate it, mobile phones, to
13 survivors and victims. And I had the privilege of
14 serving on the Justice and Courage Oversight Panel
15 with the City of San Francisco, and AT&T has been a
16 very exceptional partner for us. And just amazing how
17 many lives have been saved because of this very
18 important service.

19 I think the merger will actually expand this
20 some more, if one in every three women are abused in
21 homes, you can just imagine what wider technology and
22 broadband access and more reasonable costs for mobile
23 phones could really help women in domestic violence
24 abusive situations.

25 We also publish the Anti-Violence Resource

1 Guide, which we -- we put up on our website and people
2 all over the world download this resource and it is a
3 resource where women and girls are able to find law
4 enforcement information, lawyers to -- or legal
5 service providers for -- to help them get out of
6 domestic violence situations, shelters and agencies,
7 and this really helps us serve our Asian sisters not
8 just locally, not just nationwide, but globally.

9 So I urge you to consider -- urgently consider
10 to support the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile and thank
11 you very much.

12 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

13 Our next speaker is Lou Fisher, followed by
14 Liz Sorenson.

15 MS. FISCHER: Go ahead, I'm setting my timer
16 on my AT&T phone.

17 JUSTICE HECHT: I appreciate it.

18 MS. FISCHER: I need to get the Redistricting
19 Commission, a giant shot clock, that's what you should
20 probably have, follow up.

21 Again, my name is Lou Fischer, that's
22 F-i-s-c-h-e-r, and I'm representing myself, although
23 I'm very active in several LGBT organizations here in
24 San Francisco. And as a result, I want to thank AT&T
25 for all their support that they've given to the LGBT.

1 And as I'm hearing all the other communities and I'm
2 also hearing a lot about the work they've done with
3 labor, but what I've really come to talk about is I --
4 I'm a wireless technologist. I was formerly the
5 carrier service coordinator, if you will, for a very
6 large company that provided smart grade services to
7 utilities so I worked with all four major carriers,
8 and I know a lot about these networks.

9 And, you know, as an AT&T user, I -- I'm very
10 much in favor of this merger, because T-Mobile has
11 very good back haul, much better than -- okay,
12 T-Mobile has very good back haul in urban areas, and
13 much better connections to the fiber and other types
14 of infrastructure from the cell sites and their data
15 networks, but that's going to be brought to AT&T to
16 make service better.

17 In terms of spectrum, I think that's already
18 been -- been addressed, but this is going to add the
19 1900, 1700, 2100 megahertz to AT&T's existing 1900,
20 850 and 700, so now you've got T-Mobile's kind of well
21 known for it's high capacity, short distance but
22 doesn't penetrate really well into buildings and
23 indoor areas and you combine that with -- with AT&T's
24 850, 1900 and eventually their 700 as they move to LTE
25 and now you've kind of got what I call the perfect

1 wireless storm, if you will, in a good way.

2 So I'm very much looking forward to it

3 because every time I drive by that billboard that says

4 that AT&T covers 97 percent of all users, I sometimes

5 think I'm in that other three percent. But I'm really

6 willing to stick it out because I think this merger is

7 going to achieve in maybe a year or two what in

8 essence will sort of leap frog the network the

9 equivalent of about five to ten years of very

10 expensive network improvements.

11 And that's my two minutes, thank you.

12 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

13 Next we will have Liz Sorenson, and then

14 Laymon Tong.

15 MS. SORENSON: Good evening, Commissioner and

16 Your Honor. My name is Liz Sorenson and I'm a staff

17 representative for Communications Workers of America

18 District 9.

19 CWA District 9 represents workers in

20 California, 58,000 workers in California, including

21 more than 23,000 AT&T -- at AT&T. An AT&T/T-Mobile

22 merger will benefit workers in the wireless industry

23 at -- at -- as AT&T is the only wireless company with

24 a unionized workforce and a long tradition of

25 noninterference with respect to the organizing

1 employees.

2 In accordance with the CWA contract, AT&T
3 maintains a policy of noninterference and allows
4 workers to make their own decision about whether to
5 join a union.

6 As a result, every time that AT&T or its
7 predecessor company Southwestern Bell has merged with
8 another wireless company, employees of the acquired
9 companies have had a chance to join the union, without
10 any management intimidation.

11 That's what happened when Southwestern Bell
12 bought Pacific Bell Mobility. AT&T's CEO Stephenson
13 has stated publicly that this is the process that he
14 will follow if this merger is approved.

15 T-Mobile has about 20,000 union eligible
16 employees. CWA has been working with T-Mobile
17 employees for four years, who want a union, but
18 T-Mobile management in the United States has actively
19 tried to maintain a union-free workplace. This will
20 change if the AT&T/T-Mobile merger is approved. If
21 the merger is approved, T-Mobile workers will have the
22 right to join a union and through collective
23 bargaining, be able to shape their future.

24 So again, we believe that the merger will be
25 good for workers, consumers in our communities. And

1 Your Honor, I did cut my comment short because I
2 wanted to read a letter, a real short letter from a
3 labor leader here in San Francisco, if that's okay.

4 JUSTICE HECHT: Go ahead.

5 MS. SORENSON: Dear Commissioners, on behalf
6 of the 100,000 members of the San Francisco Labor
7 Council, I write to express Labor's full support of
8 the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile. We believe that
9 it will deliver wide-reaching benefits to California
10 workers and consumers.

11 As the only union representative --
12 represented major wireless workforce, AT&T has
13 maintained full neutrality on the issue of union
14 representation, allowing employees to organize. A
15 merger between AT&T and T-Mobile will extend this
16 neutrality to T-Mobile workers and allow them to
17 pursue union representation.

18 In addition, the AT&T/T-Mobile merger will
19 deliver broad benefits to consumers. Through
20 combining the two companies, AT&T will expand its
21 existing network infrastructure and bring wireless
22 broadband access to more Californians. The expansion
23 of mobile broadband service will also bring access to
24 underserved communities.

25 This merger means economic development and

1 now worker protections for Californians. We urge you
2 to support this merger as the Federal regulators begin
3 their review.

4 And this is sincerely signed by Tim Paulson
5 the executive director.

6 I appreciate your time this evening, thank
7 you.

8 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you.

9 Our next speaker is --

10 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Excuse me, Your Honor,
11 do you want to enter that letter into the record?

12 JUSTICE HECHT: Yes. You are welcome to do
13 that and we can have it attached to the transcript.

14 Thank you very much.

15 MS. SORENSON: You're welcome, thank you.

16 JUSTICE HECHT: Next is Laymon Jong or Tong,
17 I'm having a lot of trouble reading this one as well.
18 Is there someone here with that name or similar name?

19 It does not appear so. Then I will call Chen
20 Feng Zhu. Anybody?

21 Okay. Then I will call Jeff Kline.

22 MR. KLINE: Hello, my name's Jeff Kline,
23 K-l-i-n-e. I want to thank the Judge and Commissioner
24 for holding this public hearing, letting the public
25 speak their mind on this issue.

1 And I'd like to take the opportunity to voice
2 my opposition to the T-Mobile takeover by AT&T. I'm
3 quite impressed by all the goodwill that AT&T has
4 marshalled in support of the merger, some
5 organizations bringing speakers in literally by the
6 bus load. Many have expressed the hope that AT&T will
7 extend service to underserved communities, and the
8 hope that AT&T will continue with progressive hiring,
9 and the hope that AT&T services will be affordable or
10 more affordable, and the hope that cell service will
11 improve.

12 Hope is not a plan. As my mom used to say,
13 very religious woman, the road to Hell is paved with
14 good intentions. The points I would like to make
15 against the merger is that it is contrary to the
16 public interest and will eliminate competition and
17 restrict consumer choice.

18 Previously someone said this industry is not
19 as concentrated as the oil industry. That's not true.
20 The oil industry is much less concentrated. After
21 this merger goes through, AT&T and Verizon will
22 control 80 percent of the market in California and 77
23 percent nationwide.

24 Secondly, AT&T customers pay 20 percent more
25 than T-Mobile customers and this merger will likely

1 have adverse impact on low income cellular customers.
2 And that would include many minority folks in
3 underserved communities, even though many of them have
4 spoken in favor of this merger, they may turn out to
5 regret it, in fact, if their bills go up.

6 Three, it will likely lead to the loss of
7 tens of thousand of jobs, both among former T-Mobile
8 employees and current retail sellers of the service as
9 well as among technicians and staff who support the
10 tens of thousands of cell towers that AT&T currently
11 has contracts with and that will probably be
12 eliminated. So it's great that they're a progressive
13 employer and they support unions and progressive
14 hiring, but if you don't have a job, all that is moot.

15 Fourth, relatedly, AT&T will probably
16 eliminate as many as 40,000 cell towers, leading to a
17 reduction in signal quality and increases roaming
18 charges, and this is similar to what happened after
19 Cingular took over the AT&T wireless network in 2004.

20 Final -- fifth point, it will stifle
21 innovation, both mobile apps and handsets.

22 And the sixth point is my only personal
23 negative experience with AT&T cellular service. I
24 live on Treasure Island. I guess I'm one of the three
25 percent that don't have very good coverage.

1 I bought a TDMA mobile phone. I had service
2 from AT&T Wireless in 2000. I had no signal or
3 reception problems from that phone service. Then I
4 had a company Nextel phone from 2001-2002, worked
5 great everywhere. In 2006 Cingular took over AT&T
6 Wireless and forced me to buy a new GSM phone in order
7 to keep my same mobile number that I had for six
8 years, and Cingular took over AT&T Wireless in 2004.
9 SBC, the parent company of Cingular, took over AT&T in
10 2005 and then they changed the name to AT&T, so that's
11 very confusing but --

12 JUSTICE HECHT: And your time is about up, so
13 if you can finish up quickly.

14 MR. KLINE: Well, I would like to -- I'm
15 going to have to give you a written response because I
16 want to quote from a complaint I filed with the Better
17 Business Bureau about bad service I have on Treasure
18 Island. I just want to make a point that their
19 response to my complaint, the office of the president
20 specialist told me that they investigated and said
21 that the low signal in the area was because of water
22 and terrain, okay? So good luck with this merger.

23 Thank you.

24 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

25 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Thank you.

1 JUSTICE HECHT: Next we have Teresa Lai,
2 L-a-i, followed by Chimey Lee.
3 I'm probably mispronouncing the names, but...
4 MS. LEE: How is that spelled?
5 JUSTICE HECHT: Theresa Lai, it's spelled
6 L-a-i.
7 MS. LEE: The second one.
8 JUSTICE HECHT: I do not know how the first
9 name is spelled. The last name is spelled Lee, L-e-e.
10 MS. LEE: Does it look like it's C-h-i-m-e-y?
11 JUSTICE HECHT: It could be.
12 MS. LEE: Okay.
13 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Why don't you just speak
14 anyway.
15 JUSTICE HECHT: If that's you, go ahead.
16 MS. LEE: Close enough. Lai is not coming
17 up?
18 JUSTICE HECHT: Theresa Lai?
19 Nope, doesn't look like it.
20 MS. LEE: My name is Chimey Lee. I'm -- I
21 actually thought I was the last -- almost the last.
22 JUSTICE HECHT: You are almost the last.
23 There are about three after you.
24 MS. LEE: I'm a senior, over 70. I've had a
25 lot of -- I had worked very hard in construction for

1 30 years. I was born in Washington, D.C. and left as
2 soon as I could. I grew up during the McCarthy era
3 and I remember Eisenhower and how he warned in 19 --
4 was it 1951 about the military-industrial complex.

5 I'm -- I'm kind of thinking about Senator
6 Byrd and his long visitations in -- in -- in the
7 Senate, before -- before he left us. But I can't do
8 that here. And I'm not going back to the Pharaohs,
9 either.

10 But I'm listening -- I was listening to -- I
11 was watching, I studied Chinese medicine and half of
12 the diagnosis in Chinese medicine, 50 percent of it is
13 visual, watching everyone's face. And if you notice,
14 I was looking at everybody's face, very carefully.

15 I'm not a cell phone user. I used to be. I
16 think they're very dangerous. I've studied the -- the
17 reports started 20 years ago, that they were
18 dangerous. Finally, now, on TV, on PBS they finally
19 say, well, the reports are coming out that they are
20 dangerous, when you've got this radiation going into
21 your brain.

22 I found out from a good friend of mine who
23 worked with -- for 35 years at the Exploratorium that
24 there is a way to protect yourself, you can wrap it
25 with aluminum foil.

1 But I'm also -- because of my disability, I'm
2 on the -- what this is, the cheapest service of AT&T,
3 because I can't afford any more. And because of my
4 medical expenses, I look good but I am connected to
5 three hours if not five hours of medical equipment, so
6 I can get here, every day.

7 I'm looking at -- I do watch PBS news. I
8 listen to PBS radio every day. And I'm hearing about
9 the programs of how this country is not getting
10 smarter, the kids are not getting smarter. I'm
11 watching -- I live in Berkeley. I don't know what
12 happened to the students, but they're gone. I watched
13 their faces very carefully. I watched the students in
14 Berkeley very carefully, over the years.

15 I was living in San Francisco for 22 years,
16 since 1962. I've watched the changes in this country,
17 from D.C. to here, across the country. I've traveled
18 across the country by myself five times. I believe
19 that the students are not getting smarter. I think
20 they're getting very addicted to all this equipment.

21 JUSTICE HECHT: Your time is about up, if you
22 could wrap up, please.

23 MS. LEE: I think that AT&T gets all the
24 support that money can buy and I think that people
25 should be very careful. I do not support it. I think

1 that the -- Mrs. Chung earlier mentioned 45,000 Asians
2 and other Asian communities. I feel very sad because
3 I think they're going to be extremely disappointed
4 when the prices go up and up and up and when AT&T goes
5 overseas, takes their business overseas.

6 JUSTICE HECHT: I'm sorry, but your time is
7 up.

8 MS. LEE: Thank you very much.

9 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Thank you.

11 JUSTICE HECHT: We have three remaining
12 speakers, David Pilpel, followed by Hanley Chan.

13 COMMISSIONER SIMON: You already heard from
14 Hanley Chan.

15 JUSTICE HECHT: Okay.

16 MR. PILPEL: David Pilpel. I'm from San
17 Francisco. My AT&T cell phone hasn't worked for the
18 last six months. I'm told that it was like a 2G phone
19 in a 3 or 4G world. Maybe somebody from the company
20 can help me with that, after the hearing. I don't
21 have e-mail and I don't have Internet access. I'm
22 primarily what I guess you would call a wire line
23 customer, and so I wanted to speak largely in that
24 capacity.

25 Although I'm against mergers generally

1 because I believe they lead to likely market
2 domination, I think that the Commission needs to
3 tailor specific conditions of approval to address
4 those likely market domination outcomes.

5 To that end, I would suggest that the merged
6 company be required to maintain principal offices in
7 California, at least in San Francisco and Los Angeles.
8 I would ask that you consider the impact on area codes
9 and telephone numbers, number of conservation in the
10 North American numbering plan. For example, you can
11 require that the company release reserved cell number
12 blocks that they're now keeping as separate companies,
13 that they might not need as a merged company.

14 My wire line bill now comes from a P.O. Box
15 in Illinois and the payments are now, as of this
16 month, directed back to Illinois rather than
17 Sacramento, as they had been. You could, I assume,
18 require that California bills go to a California P.O.
19 Box and are processed here, which would preserve jobs
20 in California. Bearing no ill will to Illinois, just
21 making that a California issue for the PUC.

22 Along the same line, the bill amount as --
23 excuse me, as wire line costs have increased, the bill
24 amount that makes the late payment charge has not kept
25 up. And that might be something that you could

1 address perhaps as part of this proceeding.

2 Also, wire line should not be ignored as the
3 company moves and the technology moves more to
4 wireless. I see more and more drops and hanging wires
5 in our neighborhoods that would seem to me to be
6 potential issues for the Commission in terms of your
7 general Order 95 and addressing those concerns. So
8 I'm concerned that the focus may shift too much there.

9 Additional measures, I think, should be
10 crafted to benefit customers, especially low and
11 moderate income residential customers and local
12 governments, similar to the PEG, the public
13 educational and government channel requirements that
14 were imposed on the cable TV companies as a result of
15 their merger. For example, government agencies could
16 be required to receive the lowest commercial rates
17 available if they're not already able to.

18 To start to conclude, if the Commission can't
19 craft specific conditions of approval that work
20 against those market forces, then the Commission
21 should consider disapproving the merger.

22 At the conclusion of the hearing in a couple
23 minutes, if you could speak to the public
24 participation both for tomorrow's workshop and in the
25 future, that would be helpful.

1 JUSTICE HECHT: Definitely.

2 MR. PILPEL: At least to me.

3 And if I could just tell a very, very short

4 story.

5 JUSTICE HECHT: Very short.

6 MR. PILPEL: Very short. I think the last

7 time I addressed a Commission proceeding was in the

8 mid '80s, before ALJ Martin Mattes. I remember it

9 when I was a very young person and I addressed the

10 depreciation cost for PacBell at the time as they were

11 moving from Crossbar to ESS Technology, and whether

12 the ratepayers were benefitting from that. And he was

13 like, what's a kid like you knowing about that sort of

14 stuff.

15 So in the -- the same way, I would hope that

16 as the technology evolves, whether it's the 2G and 3G

17 networks going to 4G and some of these other things

18 that I've heard about, that the accounting treat that

19 properly and that customers benefit from reinvesting

20 those assets elsewhere.

21 And thank you for your time.

22 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much.

23 Have I heard from Hanley Chan or if not, is

24 Hanley Chan here to speak?

25 It would appear not.

1 Then our last speaker will be Tracy
2 Rosenberg.

3 MS. ROSENBERG: Thank you, it's a great honor
4 to be the final speaker of -- of -- of the evening.

5 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you for waiting.

6 MS. ROSENBERG: Glad to.

7 I direct a nonprofit called -- called Media
8 Alliance. We have not received corporate funding from
9 AT&T in the past 12 months nor in the past 35 years.

10 I guess the first thing that I want to say is
11 this hearing is fundamentally about the stay of a
12 wireless market in California and nationwide.

13 If we -- if we look at that and consumer
14 reports did so in December of 2010, they tell us that
15 AT&T has the lowest customer satisfaction rankings of
16 any wireless provider. They also tell us that AT&T is
17 the highest cost wireless provider. That's important
18 to say. We're talking about bad service and high
19 prices. By contrast, they mention that T-Mobile is
20 the second ranked in customer satisfaction, and has
21 some of the lowest prices. I just want to get that on
22 the record.

23 If this merger goes through and Sprint makes
24 its way to corporate heaven in the sky, as is pretty
25 likely, we will then be looking at a functional

1 duopoly in the marketplace of the two highest priced
2 providers. That's great for corporate shareholders.
3 That's really not good for low income Californians.
4 They will be bouncing back and forth between the two
5 least affordable options for wireless service. What
6 will be left in the other 12 percent of the market?
7 Maybe Metro PCS? Not a great choice.

8 Let's also look at the issue of sort of
9 technical disinvestments, because a lot of things have
10 been said about innovation and technological
11 improvements. On a factual basis, AT&T has actually
12 disinvested in their network. They have shut down,
13 not increased wireless towers. They have said flat
14 out that expanding their network to areas that are
15 underserved for high speed Internet, both in
16 California and nationally, is not cost effective.
17 Which of course it's not, because these are areas with
18 difficult terrain and not too many customers.

19 In addition, under their leadership it's not
20 as if the United States is a global leader in high
21 speed broadband. We are not an innovator. We are not
22 in the top ten of developed nations. We have some of
23 the slowest speeds in the entire developed world.

24 In addition to that, we have one of the
25 largest digital divides. We need more entrance in

1 this market, not less. We need a higher level of
2 service than we have received.

3 Very quickly, just to finish up, on the jobs
4 front, you know, AT&T went to Sacramento a couple
5 years ago to get a bill passed called DIFCA for
6 statewide cable franchising, and I actually have the
7 letter that was sent talking about the jobs explosion
8 that would occur as a result. The jobs explosion was
9 a loss of 20,000 jobs between 2007 and 2009,
10 nationwide. California was hard hit.

11 T-Mobile has, I believe, 36,000 workers
12 nationwide. I just heard today that only 20,000 of
13 those are union eligible, so I'm not quite sure what's
14 going to happen to the other 16,000.

15 JUSTICE HECHT: Your time is about up, so you
16 should wrap up.

17 MS. ROSENBERG: Got it. But it's important
18 to say that we will need to integrate some 46,000 jobs
19 here before we head back to zero.

20 The final point that I want to make is
21 someone had pointed out that the only two entities
22 that provide more philanthropic support to
23 organizations run by people of color are Bank of
24 America and Wells Fargo. I want to discourage the
25 idea that this proceeding is a philanthropy contest.

1 I think we would be sorely lacking something if we
2 were to overlook the foreclosure crisis in this
3 country, because of their fine rate of philanthropic
4 support by Wells Fargo and Bank of America.

5 We are regulators or you are regulators and
6 impacts on communities are much more profound than
7 simply grants.

8 Thank you.

9 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you.

10 All right, that was the last speaker that we
11 have. First I want to recognize that public
12 participation hearings are primarily opportunities for
13 members of the public who are not parties to a
14 proceeding to speak.

15 This evening a few people who are
16 representatives of actual parties participating in the
17 proceeding slipped through, and I have in fairness
18 tried to let them speak equally so that nobody felt
19 that they were locked out of this discussion.

20 Having done that, I want to note that the
21 statements you've made here tonight will be
22 transcribed by our court reporter and will become part
23 of the public record available to the Commission in
24 making its decision. If you provided a written
25 statement to the court reporter that I have said will

1 be attached to the end of the transcript, then that
2 will also be done.

3 On behalf of the Commission, I want to thank
4 you all for taking your time to make your views known
5 here tonight. I think we had a wonderful selection of
6 people and a variety of viewpoints, and that's what we
7 want. And I really appreciate that everybody took the
8 time to come out and express your views here.

9 I was asked a couple minutes ago a question
10 about opportunities for future participation in other
11 public participation hearings or workshops. I will
12 note that there's a workshop tomorrow during the day
13 at a state building down the street and there will be
14 an opportunity for public comment between 3:30 and
15 4:30 at that meeting. The rest of the workshop will
16 be a structured discussion of panelists and others,
17 and that agenda is posted on the Commission's website.

18 There will also be public participation
19 hearings held towards the end of this month in Los
20 Angeles, San Diego and Fresno, or at least that's what
21 it looks like at this point.

22 Those dates and times have not quite been
23 finalized yet but they will be announced in advance
24 once they're finalized.

25 There are also two additional workshops that

1 will be taking place, one a week from tomorrow, on
2 Friday the 15th of July, and one two weeks from
3 tomorrow, on Friday the 22nd of July.

4 The one on the 15th will be taking place at
5 Santa Clara University, and the one on the 22nd will
6 be taking place in Los Angeles. Both of those will
7 also have a period of time in which the public will be
8 welcome to comment.

9 So that was what I wanted you to know here
10 today. Is there any last question or comment from
11 anybody here before we adjourn at about quarter past
12 9:00?

13 COMMISSIONER SIMON: I wanted to make a
14 couple of comments.

15 JUSTICE HECHT: Great, then I will take a
16 comment from the audience and another comment from the
17 audience. These are brief comments, less than one
18 minute. I encourage you to keep them brief and then
19 we'll have Commissioner Simon speak before we close.

20 You should come up to the microphone and
21 identify yourself, please.

22 UNIDENTIFIED GENTLEMAN: It was just a
23 question, actually. Is there going to be another one
24 of these meetings before you guys make a decision?

25 JUSTICE HECHT: The meetings, like these

1 meetings are the meetings that are taking place in Los
2 Angeles and San Diego and Fresno, so there will be
3 three others in other different parts of the state.

4 UNIDENTIFIED GENTLEMAN: Oh, okay.

5 JUSTICE HECHT: And I said, there will also
6 be another opportunity for public comment tomorrow at
7 a workshop being held during the day.

8 Thank you very much.

9 One last question or comment?

10 MR. PILPEL: If I can just -- David Pilpel
11 again. If I can just clarify the previous question.
12 Will there be further public participation hearings
13 later on in time in the proceeding as it gets closer
14 to a decision after there's been some further
15 analysis? I think that may be -- that's certainly my
16 question.

17 JUSTICE HECHT: The ones that we have
18 scheduled are the ones that I have mentioned. I am
19 not -- there is a very expedited time frame for this
20 proceeding.

21 MR. PILPEL: Okay.

22 JUSTICE HECHT: And I do not say that we will
23 not schedule any other public participation hearings,
24 but we do not have any plans at this point to schedule
25 any.

1 MR. PILPEL: Then maybe if you could just
2 explain this expedited schedule, what -- what does
3 that result in, a decision or recommended decision
4 being when-ish?

5 JUSTICE HECHT: It results in a recommended
6 decision sometime in the early fall.

7 MR. PILPEL: Okay.

8 JUSTICE HECHT: And there will be an
9 opportunity for parties, and people who want to become
10 parties may request party status, and parties would
11 have an opportunity to comment on the proposed
12 decision when it comes out.

13 MR. PILPEL: But the public would not have an
14 opportunity if one were not a party?

15 JUSTICE HECHT: A member of the public would
16 have that opportunity if the member of the public
17 requested party status.

18 MR. PILPEL: But as a nonparty, we're not --

19 JUSTICE HECHT: Correct.

20 MR. PILPEL -- going to do this thing again?

21 JUSTICE HECHT: Correct. But you can request
22 party status and there is a process for that.

23 MR. PILPEL: That's all right.

24 JUSTICE HECHT: Which our public advisory
25 staff can assist you with if that's what you'd like to

1 do.

2 MR. PILPEL: That's okay, you answered the
3 question. Thank you very much.

4 And I wanted to hear from Commissioner Simon.

5 JUSTICE HECHT: One more speaker then
6 Commissioner Simon.

7 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Yes, ma'am. I don't
8 want to speak. I just want to find -- where do you
9 find information about the workshops or any public
10 meetings?

11 JUSTICE HECHT: You can talk to the public
12 advisor staff about accessing the Commission's website
13 or you can go on to the Commission's website at
14 www.cpuc.ca.gov. The agenda for the first workshop is
15 posted. The agendas for the second and third will be
16 posted shortly, probably early next week.

17 And there will be a workshop, as I said,
18 starting tomorrow morning at 9:30 at the state
19 building at 455 Golden Gate, about two blocks down
20 here. So I will be there bright and early tomorrow
21 morning.

22 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: I thought you mentioned
23 there was another one at 3:00 to 4:00?

24 JUSTICE HECHT: That's the one that starts at
25 9:30 in the morning. The public participation portion

1 of that listed on the agenda is listed from 3:30 to
2 4:30.

3 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: You work hard.

4 JUSTICE HECHT: We all do our best.

5 Commissioner Simon, please go ahead.

6 COMMISSIONER SIMON: Thank you, Your Honor.

7 Let me just say also that you can be on a service list
8 or mailing list without being a party to the
9 proceeding, so if you just want to receive a mailing
10 or notices of those documents that are filed during
11 the proceeding, including the transcripts, you can
12 just contact the public advisor's office. Two of the
13 representatives -- two of our finest are standing in
14 the back right now and I couldn't tell you -- I don't
15 have enough time to say how -- what an amazing group
16 that Judy and Mary are in this regard.

17 I want to thank everybody for participating.
18 I always learn something at our public participation
19 hearings that I don't learn otherwise. And your
20 involvement makes a difference.

21 Just a couple weeks ago I was in Long Beach
22 for the Southern California Edison general rate case
23 public participation hearing, and in the evening
24 portion two people showed up to speak, okay? I think
25 one was a Tea Partier. So to have this kind of

1 turnout for a transaction in occurrence that's going
2 to have such a dramatic impact on the marketplace and
3 the quality of lives of our residents here in
4 California and in the nation, it really says a lot
5 about all of you to be here and to make your voices
6 heard.

7 I encourage you, if you can, to attend the
8 workshops. The workshops are extremely informative.
9 It's like watching C-SPAN. I mean, really, you just
10 get information that you normally can't receive if
11 you're sitting in our normal Commission business
12 meetings or other settings.

13 I will also say in terms of the comment
14 that -- and President Peevey would stab me if he was
15 sitting here right now, but we do have a public
16 comment period in every meeting that we have here at
17 the Commission, and unless -- and so you're welcome to
18 come speak and express your views on the -- the merger
19 application at one of our Commission meetings. The
20 next one is on July 14th, I believe it will be at 9:00
21 o'clock. I don't think we're going back to 10:00, but
22 I'm not sure, check the website, and that will be on
23 July 14th here in this auditorium.

24 So again, thank you so much and we will -- I
25 can guarantee you that every one of my colleagues is

1 very interested in this process and we want to make
2 certain that we have vetted all of the California
3 specific issues not only to render our decision here
4 in California, but we're also providing comments to
5 the Federal Communications Commission in AT&T and
6 Deutsche Telekom's application before the Federal or I
7 like -- as I like to call them, the Federales as well.

8 So, you know, your comments are going to
9 influence both of these processes from our standpoint
10 here at the California Commission.

11 Again, thank you and good night.

12 JUSTICE HECHT: Thank you very much. I
13 appreciate everybody's time. Thank you for coming.
14 And again, there are other opportunities to
15 participate if you'd like to.

16 So with that, this meeting is adjourned and
17 we'll be off the record.

18 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at
19 9:25 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

The hereby certify that the foregoing in the within-entitled cause was taken at the time and place herein named; that the transcript is a true record of the proceedings as reported by me, a duly certified shorthand reporter and a disinterested person, and was thereafter transcribed into typewriting by computer.

I further certify that I am not interested in the outcome of the said action, nor connected with, nor related to any of the parties in said action, nor to their respective counsel.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 11th day of July, 2011.

LUCY CARRILLO-GRUBBS, CSR No. 6766
STATE OF CALIFORNIA